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VOL. 56 October 1, 1931 No. 17

"This Bequest of Wings"
Robert E. Rogers

The Public Librarian Looks at the Public
Clarence E. Sherman

What Does the Public Want
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Forthcoming Issues of
THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

As previously announced, the leading article in the Book Week, October 15, issue of THE LIBRARY JOURNAL will be by May Lamberton Becker. Other articles for this issue are by Letha M. Davidson of the Ames, Iowa, Public Library on "Laying the Foundation Stones of Children's Reading," an article on Toronto's new juvenile classification system by Lillian H. Smith, Head of the Toronto Boys and Girls Division of the Public Library, and "The Making of Book Lists for Boys and Girls" by Alice Jordan of Boston.

The November first number promises several interesting articles: one by Jennie Flexner of the New York Public Library on "The Reader, The Librarian and The Book"; another by Lutie Stearns, formerly with the Wisconsin Library Commission, on "Tomorrow Is Just Another Day!" and still another by C. Edward Graves of Humboldt State Teachers College on "Libraries in Our National Parks."

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

"This Bequest of Wings"

By ROBERT E. ROGERS

Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

I SUSPECT that Miss McCrea's quotation from Emily Dickinson is apropos in a way which she hadn't entirely intended. The poetry about human flight is all magical and supernatural. The wings of Icarus, the pinions of Pegasus, Isaiah's vision of the six-winged Cherubim, Astolfo's Hippogriff, the sandals of Hermes and of Perseus, Robin Goodfellow putting a girdle round the earth in forty minutes—these are the poet's symbols for the wings lent to man by his books. But in this age of the Wright Brothers and Colonel Lindbergh flying is a mechanical affair, a matter of calculation and design, of plane surface and motor strength, of stabilator and radio compass. The poetry about flying is written of late by Jules Verne and H. G. Wells—prophecy based on scientific probability. The magic has been taken out of flight. It is no longer the poet's dream but the practical hope of every school boy.

> He ate and drank the precious words,
> His spirit grew robust;
> He knew no more that he was poor,
> Nor that his frame was dust.
> He danced along the dingy days,
> And this bequest of wings
> Was but a book. What liberty
> A loosened spirit brings!
>
> —EMILY DICKINSON.

In the past, books have always furnished the winged sandals to the thoughtful and imaginative individual soul. But it has been the single book, or the precious little collection of well-thumbed volumes. It has been the lonely—and I do not hesitate to say—the aristocratic spirit who has found his magic wings in the treasured accumulations of literature. The public library, to the service of which this great conference is dedicated, is a machine, like the airplane. It is a complex, scientific apparatus, the aim of which is to furnish wings to every man.

It has furnished wings, without question, to thousands who otherwise would have remained hopelessly and forever on the ground. But can it hope to furnish wings to all? Should it, as a matter of fact, attempt to furnish wings to all? Is it not possible that the time has come when the ideal of indiscriminate service to the democracy at large should give way to the selective and discriminating service of those who desire wings and of those who are worthy of wings?

Some of us have a profound conviction that American public school education and the American public library system have resulted in a kind of literacy which is almost worse than illiteracy. Is illiteracy, after all, such a dreadful evil? It is highly probable that most

Paper presented before Lending Section, New Haven Conference.

of the necessary, useful work of the world has been done by the illiterates, the People, the simple, kindly, conservative Folk, who were non-intellectual but not unintelligent, whose wisdom was the wisdom of inherited lore and of hard won experience, whose religion was faith and whose politics was tradition, who did not speak in the council nor sit in the judgment seat, but who maintained the state of the world. So said the unknown writer of Ecclesiasticus and Edmund Burke echoed him.

Was the civilization maintained by such people very much worse than ours which is continually in turmoil as the result of the activities of the half-baked and the half-educated, of those who can read and do read, copiously and unselectively, and who darken understanding by words without knowledge? I doubt it, just as I doubt whether the unselective skimming of tons of wood pulp covered with ephemeral printed matter can be called reading at all. Certainly that kind of reading has no wings for man.

What was the chief literary characteristic of the "dark ages"? What was the literature of barbarism? Was it not the copious editing and publishing of outlines of classic writings, of digests of great works, of popularizations and encyclopaedias? The barbarians of the dark ages understood dimly that something had passed from the world, which was wise and beautiful and precious—in a word civilized. But they could no longer read and understand the records of that past; it was too high for them, they could not attain unto it. And so their scholars and men of letters, no longer capable of original work, devoted their lives to translations and digests and collections and popularizations for generations which were capable of assimilating only predigested food.

In a curious fashion we of today are repeating that epoch in history. There is, without question, a gulf between the life and thought of today and that of the past which is yearly becoming more and more difficult to bridge. The score of years from 1900 to 1920 marks a gulf between two civilizations, that founded on the past and that which is bent on scrapping the past as ruthlessly as possible. The American adolescent of today is growing up in a world which is so different from anything that history has ever known that for him to understand the records of the past is almost impossible. And so the scholars, who have so little that is constructive to say to the world of today, are reduced to gathering together scraps and fragments of the past and serving them up as Outlines or Epitomes or Readings in this, that, and the other literature, to a generation which is growing increasingly incapable of understanding how men's minds worked in another age.

Increasingly even college students are being fed on these outlines, popularizations, books of extracts, orientation courses and the like—and from them they obtain all that they will ever know of the world from which theirs was born, the shadow of which still hangs heavy over our world.

I believe with all my heart that no statesmanship, no philosophy, no social thinking, no religious experimentation is valid which is not firmly rooted in the past for stability and for nourishment. But it must be firmly rooted. I would trust the genuine illiterate, the really original thinker who knows nothing about the past and picks his way step-by-step through the present by sheer intuition and hard won experience, a man like Henry Ford, for instance, sooner than I would trust the writers and thinkers of today who know a little at second hand and are convinced that they know it all. This type of adult sophomore has seldom been brought up in a home where books are a matter of course. He is a product of the libraries.

There was a time when the public library of America was a little collection of books, brought together as fruits of sacrifice, selected with rigid intellectual integrity, and offered to every man who desired earnestly to improve himself. There was only one requirement. The books were not to be measured down to the man. The man must measure up to the books. The result was that in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century we produced a breed of men and women who were not "intellectual," in the cant sense of the term, who belonged to none of the learned professions, but who were genuinely well read in a small number of books chosen because they did attempt to embody the best that had been said and thought in the world.

Books in our Public Libraries are still chosen for that sort of reader and that sort of reader still finds wings in that sort of book, but in addition, and unfortunately, the Public Library has prostituted itself to the assumption that it must provide all sorts and conditions of books for all sorts and conditions of people, books without wings for people who will never understand what flying means. The result is that the bulk of the monthly purchases in the average library consists of popular fiction without beauty, wisdom or imagination, and of factual books (non-fiction in general) which are hardly more than ephemeral journalism in covers, much of it trivial in

subject and undistinguished in treatment. And it is probably safe to say that the books which are not found on the monthly lists are precisely those which because of novelty and originality in phrase, experimentation in idea, vividness in interpretation of life and actual modernity of mood are excluded by a kind of rule of thumb process of selection that sticks to general averages, best selling lists, and popular taste. Too many of the trustees and the book selection committees are a generation behind their time. Furthermore, any high school and college student who has to use a public library in his work knows how scantily and incompletely and absurdly accidentally the acknowledged classics of literature are likely to be represented, except for the little group of familiar stereotypes in English and American classic letters.

That is why the most intelligent of our readers no longer expect much of the public library. The best books of the past and the most interesting books of the present are seldom adequately represented; everything else is purchased in abundance. The farce-comedy of the whole thing is that the purchasing lists are swelling yearly with this *ersatz*, this substitute literature precisely at the time when the public library no longer needs to stock such stuff. Formerly the public library was the only service to supply the democratic demand. Today there is a large army of readers who are completely satisfied with magazines, which they can purchase cheaply and in abundance. Why should the library clutter its shelves with books which are only magazines in covers? There is another large army of readers who are completely satisfied with the circulating library type of fiction and the more sensational non-fiction. No amount of temptation and guidance will ever lead most of them to read anything better. Is there any reason why they should be encouraged to think of the public library as a kind of circulating book-stall of drug-store fiction, of Hollywood scenarios in book form, of syndicated journalism in covers? Why not reserve the public library for Books and for people who like Books?

If it be true in America, as somebody has said, that the democracy of knowledge has ruined the aristocracy of thought, my feeling is that the Public Library cannot escape a certain responsibility for that degeneration. Take as a symbol the open shelf room. The open shelf is the finest idea the public library ever had. I well remember my own transition, at the age of eleven or thereabouts, from an old-fashioned library, where one never saw a book but chose as best he could from an out-of-date printed catalog, to a modern library which even then, thirty years ago, was modern in the best sense of the word, where the stacks were open even to small boys. That transition marks the beginning of my education.

But we are breeding a type of under-bred, half-educated, would-be intellectual reader who can't be trusted with open shelves. He steals the books. The Boston Public Library loses, I am told, some twelve thousand volumes a year and I am willing to wager that most of them are taken by high school and college students with so-called intellectual tastes, who dip into all the substitute literature of the day but have never learned from their reading any sober sense of responsibility, any sense of practical ethics, any sense of common honesty. In a word, they have none of those sober virtues that folks who love books and are well read in good books practice as unthinkingly as they practice the kindred virtues bodily cleanliness and correct speech. The book-stealer's lapse from the one virtue is probably accompanied by lapses from the other two.

We have opened our libraries to those people and we have lowered the intellectual standards of our libraries to match the standards of those people. We have gone on the assumption that most people need only the opportunity to progress from the elementary, the trivial, the tawdry and ephemeral to the literature of lasting worth and value. And we are beginning to find out that, thanks to the public library, not only is public opinion saturated with the ideas and judgments of those hundreds of thousands who are literate in name only, but that the bulk of our current writing is being supplied us by those same persons who have learned from the public library that anything in book covers will pass as literature and that the talent which is required to write the average book of fiction or the average collection of facts is not a whit above their very modest abilities. And so the book lists are flooded with this mass of good wood pulp spoiled to make cheap literature, and the Public Library buys most of it and puts it on the shelves, and the dreadful process of the vicious circle goes merrily on.

One of Count Keyserling's most disheartening prophecies has to do with the passing of the two-thousand-year-old cultures which have produced all the variegated richness of the civilization of the past. Our imaginative literature in poetry and prose, our religious and philosophical literature are all products of those old, highly individualized national cultures. For the future he sees only one cul-

ture, the machine culture. We like to think it is an engineering culture, but, says Keyserling, it is only a chauffeur culture based on an increasing world-wide ability to make and run machines. Already that culture is spreading over the world, wiping out the old national cultures. In the past the workman in England possessed a different cultural and philosophical background from that of the workman in France and in Russia. But in the future, says Keyserling, the workman in Detroit and Berlin, in Moscow and Pekin and Rio de Janeiro, will be indistinguishable, almost interchangeable, possessing but one culture, that of the machine, and its corollaries.

Curiously enough, it is chiefly in American letters that we see faintly the truth of what he says. Our American literary culture is rapidly breaking all the links with the past. The ideas and the imaginings of the poets and thinkers who established our civilization are forgotten, so far as the majority of our public are concerned. That public is fed on the standardized thought of newspaper syndicates, of magazines of such immense circulation that all their ideas have to be reduced to the greatest common denominator, and of fiction primarily intended for a standardized, magazine reading audience. This necessity for pleasing and informing readers in batches of two and three millions has resulted, as it has in the case of the moving and talking pictures, in destroying all intellectual and imaginative distinction, all the qualities that make literature and art a refreshment and an inspiration and an incentive to the souls of men. The mob has created its literature and art in its own image—and that image is suspiciously like Keyserling's robot of the machine age.

That is why I am inclined to be skeptical of Professor Phelps's reported advice to allow the youngsters to read any sort of trash they want to on the ground that any sort of reading is better than no reading. I doubt it. The wrong sort of reading is demonstrably worse than no reading. There is a kind of predestined reader, such as I suspect Professor Phelps was in his youth, who can and does read everything, trash and all, without being harmed, and with a lively consciousness of the difference between the trash and the good stuff.

But he is one in a thousand. If your boy or girl reads nothing but trash, there is a fair chance that he or she will never read anything but trash. Possibly the public library can induce him to read better books. In most cases, however, most likely not. As a citizen and a parent, the chances are that the person concerned will not be morally the worse for never reading anything but trash, although he will never contribute anything to our civilization, but the one thing that is perfectly clear to me is that the librarian should have no part in helping the child to his trash. Wherever he gets it, whoever allows him to read it, the library ought not to have it on its shelves, ought not to believe that it can use trash as a stepping stone to higher things. I say this as emphatically as possible, for there is no doubt that much of the so-called juvenile literature for boys and girls ought never to be purchased by a public library. It is not sensational, it is perfectly decent, but it contains neither intellectual nourishment nor imaginative stimulus, neither beauty or power. It is simply skim milk. The boy and girl can find it everywhere else, but the one place where they ought not to be able to find it is the public library.

The whole thing, I take it, boils down to this. You can't make silk purses out of sows' ears, which is what the public library has been trying to do. A love of literature, a capacity to find lasting food and drink in literature, to find energy for the mind and imagination and wings for the spirit, is the birthright of a comparatively small and aristocratic group. That aristocracy has nothing to do with wealth or position, or birth, or even with education. It is a birthright of the spirit. The minority with that birthright is the only power capable of standing against the crowd culture of our day, the only group capable of handing on the torch. The teachers and parents with that birthright are our most precious cultural possessions.

It is the business of the public libraries to buy their books for these people, so far as possible; to relieve them, so far as possible, from the temptations of inferior literature made cheaply attractive and easily accessible. To inculcate in young people a feeling that whatever is in a public library is worth reading and that only what is worth reading can be found there.

What should we think of an art museum that made up its collection on the basis of the popular taste in art? Magazine covers, comic strips, bathing beauty photographs and advertising illustrations? Yet the public library is making its collection of books on exactly that basis. What should we think of a symphony orchestra that made up its programs of sentimental ballads and jazz? The average art museum or the average symphony orchestra is, fortunately, not supported by public funds nor directed by public trustees. It gives people not what they want but what they ought to want. Some day

public libraries of America may remember that the voice of the people is in no sense the voice of God, and that the true liberty of the democracy consists solely in their walking willingly in the paths laid out for them by people who are more competent than they to decide what is good for them. Until then our great private foundations in art, music, science and education will have to work unaided at the task of preserving our infinitely precious heritage of culture which is being debased and vulgarized by our notion that an understanding and the love of literature and art can be expected of the people at large. Mere literacy does not mean civilization.

Literature, this bequest of wings, is not and cannot possibly be the possession of the hundred million. It is idle to believe that and it is foolish to build a vast public library system on that assumption. But the few hundred thousand, the half million, for whom this literature is written and who, alone, when properly guided, can understand it and love it, may prove to be the leaven that leavens the lump, the saving remnant that makes a civilization great, the few righteous that may save a cultural Sodom.

Let the crowd that has no appreciation of what literature may mean, no interest in it and no desire to be interested in it, go where it wants for the sort of thing it wants. And let the guardians of our public libraries be freed from the endless and tedious and futile task of serving out over the counter the canned goods of literature to people who are not even interested in the different brands of canned goods. Put the canned goods in the chain stores and the drug stores and the circulating libraries. And let our librarians, then, be free to devote themselves to their real job, of bringing together the right book and the right reader, the reader who sincerely wishes to fly and the book that can truly give the spirit wings.

The Public Librarian Looks At the Public

By CLARENCE E. SHERMAN

Librarian, Providence, Rhode Island, Public Library

IF A CAT may look at a queen and Dr. Joseph Collins may look at literature, biography, love and life, it is not inappropriate for the Librarian to look at the public. And he is constantly looking at the public, but usually the look is accompanied by stage-business of hand-rubbing, as he watches the indicator of the Circulation Meter steadily advancing. So long as it records an increase in circulation activity, all's well with the world, and quite all right with the public, thank you, as the Librarian sees it.

Today for a few moments, it is my purpose to look at the public with you, to consider several aspects of that great body of readers (so-called) for whom the public libraries have been established and are maintained. And the features to which I shall draw your attention, or rather, remind you, for I am leading you along no new trail, are hardly to be classified in the "quite-all right" group. I propose to sound two or three major notes and a couple of minors,—not in the musical harmony of ideal library administration, but in discordant and jangling tones, because the conditions of which I speak are themselves out of tune with what I believe to be the essence of real public library service and management. And I am not standing apart from my fellow-librarians as a critic of thee and thine. I am merely here as an interested observer, reporting what he sees and expressing a bit of what he thinks about it.

The equal opportunity to use a common collection of books by a community of men, women and children, is a by-product of the American idea of democracy. It is a discovery of the new world and we Americans are entitled to a just pride in it. It is a noble and very lively experiment in the fields of political, social and educational endeavor. It pre-supposes a cooperative and reciprocal spirit on the part of two primary elements,—the administration of the public library and the reading public itself. It offers privileges of a character and a value unknown a century ago. On the other hand, it requires in return for those privileges offered to the public, definite responsibilities, responsibilities once thought to be simple, necessary, and in earlier days considered by both parties, in general at least, to be entirely reasonable. Has the read-

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ing public responded to this demand for co-operation, this challenge to its sense of democracy? Let us see as we proceed.

For the greater part of its history, the American public library movement has been engaged in breaking away from the traditional policies of earlier libraries, from policies that had for their objectives the preservation of literature and the museum standards of librarianship, that gave scant attention to the use to which books might be put. Liberal idea after liberal idea has been introduced to break down the barriers between the readers,—both real and potential,—and the printed page. Open shelves, and more and more generous lending privileges,—the distinguishing characteristics of modern public library practice,—have become part and parcel of the accepted policy of every public library worthy the name.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century there was given a great impetus to this new freedom in libraries. At the World's Fair Conference of the A. L. A. in 1893, an eminent and well-beloved librarian said, "As the value of a library must depend upon the freedom with which it can be used, clearly the removal of every unnecessary restriction or formality is desirable. I would even question the necessity of requiring a membership card to be presented each time a book is drawn,—in short, any regulation which throws the slightest unnecessary restriction or difficulty about the use of the library."

The positive influence of such expressed opinion as this was tremendous. The growth of a liberal philosophy spread throughout the library profession. To be a conservative during the years that have followed has been to sit alone among public librarians and to be viewed with sympathy, suspicion or even alarm by one's fellows. Seldom, if ever, has there been expressed any doubt as to the ability of a city's heterogeneous population to make use of such privileges without seriously abusing them. As to whether we might be expecting more of the moral fibre of the community than its elastic limit would permit, seems not to have troubled us seriously, if we are to use as a gauge the pages of the journals of the profession or the records of our association's conferences. The question as to whether a public library might not be too liberal and offer certain privileges of little intrinsic importance yet at considerable economic expenditure is one of the decidedly unpopular topics for consideration among public librarians, judging from the same data mentioned above.

As we raise our heads, peer over the desk and take a good look at the public today, what do we find,—a cooperating, responsive body of readers? Not if we are to be influenced by the amount of labor and materials required to get books back from readers to whom they have been charged. The effort involved in this routine in a large public library is simply staggering. And yet, I am not going to dwell upon this feature except in its more extreme forms because we all are quite aware that the greater part of what might be called the "preliminary overdue routine" is concerned with honest but procrastinating and occasionally careless human beings who mean to do what's right,—when they get around to it. And it should also be said here that the great mass of the public do intend to cooperate in the use of their public library in every relationship, otherwise, we should have been forced out of business long since. Nor do I propose to give any attention to the occasional professional book thief, who, like the one recently arrested in Massachusetts, feeds upon the treasures of public libraries to his own profit and the loss of the community. But I do want to draw your attention to several more important (as I see them) features of the problem.

First, it is surprising to find that the practice of stock-taking or inventory is given so little importance among public libraries. To be sure, it takes time, costs money, lost books are not immediately replaced, and it is not so spectacular as stimulating an increase in circulation, but as stewards of public property we should be expected to be better informed as to what has happened to that with which we have been intrusted. Furthermore, we have what Dr. Bostwick once called a "forget complex" in this matter. It appears that we would prefer not to think too much about it, and more especially talk very little about it. If you don't believe this statement, examine the printed reports of a dozen public libraries at random for complete and informing accounts concerning book losses.

In the A. L. A. *Survey* of 1926, we are told that "many libraries report that their losses by theft have been negligible" but that the larger libraries suffer considerably from theft and mutilation. From this rather restrained statement one would hardly feel, after reading the four page digest, that the loss of books is a serious problem in the American public library. This book loss topic was discussed also at the Conference of the Librarians of Large Public Libraries at Chicago in December, 1925, in an extremely tolerant and good-natured manner, leaving one with the very definite impression that the loss of books is not particularly serious and that attempts to

eradicate the evil (if it be one) are expensive,—and, I may add,—if we but continue to stick our heads, ostrich-like into the sand of the Desert of Indifference, it will be all right later on, somehow or other.

Not forgetting that many of the books stolen from shelves or not returned by readers to whom they are issued are of small value,—fiction, inexpensive children's books, well-worn volumes,—and that inventory figures are guilty of considerable inaccuracy, we still stand face to face with what I believe to be a very real obligation. Of course we have always that refuge which might be called the "loss-circulation-ratio consolation." If the rate of book loss is lower than the rate of circulation gain then, why worry! The chief difficulty with this process of reasoning is that, so far as I know, the mathematical basis for the structure of this formula has never been established. What is a reasonable ratio of book loss to circulation,—one book to every 100 books circulated, or one to every 10,000? Who knows?

Finding very little help in printed sources, I recently sent a questionnaire to the librarians of nine public libraries distributed from the Atlantic to the Pacific, each about the same size as to book collection, circulation, and city population as the Library with which I am associated and all having generous lending privileges. Standards of inventory practice were found to be so variable (one having had no complete inventory for sixteen years, another for ten years) that no fixed laws could be developed even if the number included were large enough. However, certain very definite and exceedingly significant trends were found.

In the books lost from the shelves, one library had, between 1910 and 1930, increased its annual loss figures from 263 to 1,924. In other words, the loss had increased about eight times in twenty years. The circulation, meanwhile, had increased substantially from 375,000 to 1,000,000, but only three times in the same period. Another library's figures showed that although circulation had increased six times in twenty years, the loss from shelves had jumped ten times, from 351 to 3,515. Another statement showed that a library had, between 1920 and 1930, added 36,000 books to its collection but meanwhile had a shrinkage due to theft from shelves of more than 7,000, or nearly 20 per cent of the gain in book collection for the ten-year period.

In other words, whatever satisfaction can be obtained from the "loss-circulation-ratio" rule or any other source of consolation does not apply to these libraries nor does it, I am confident, apply to many, many more libraries not included in this group.

As to the books lost in the circulation process, this is most strikingly presented by the following figures: One library which lost 173 books via this route in 1920, lost 1,160 in 1930, or a gain of six times. During the same period, circulation increased three times. Another library reported 130 lost in 1910 and 1,374 in 1930, an increase of ten times, while circulation had grown from 208,000 to 1,400,000 or six times. Still another library during this twenty-year period, reported 84 books lost in 1910 and 1,227 in 1930, a gain of fourteen times. Circulation increased ten times during the same period. Another reported a loss which had increased six times while circulation had but doubled. Still another stated that although no comparative figures are available, the loss in 1930 was over 2,000 with a circulation of approximately 1,500,000.

Surely the import of these figures cannot be denied. These books lost in circulation were not taken from the shelves by the forgetful person who neglected to have them charged, or the lad who was in a hurry to get home to supper and there was a crowd around the Charging Desk. They were regularly and duly issued to readers who assumed a responsibility for them and yet in spite of from two to four notices, a letter or two, a call by the library's messenger and perhaps even a policeman, this public property is still missing. It may be that the monetary loss in all of these leaks is not impressive to every librarian, but I cannot understand how we can escape the significant effect upon the morale of the public which goes on and on using the public libraries on the same old free and easy basis. When in a speculative mood, I have frequently tried to picture, via some method of television, where all these books are reposing. Most public libraries lose enough books (in number at least) every five years to stock a branch library. What becomes of some of them would make good material for a better mystery story than I have read this year.

As to that other destructive element in library service,—mutilation,—there is only time to remind you that there appears to be an almost unanimous opinion that the practice is growing by leaps and bounds, to no small degree due to the project method of instruction in the public schools. It should be noted that the library associations in several states,—among which are Massachusetts and Rhode Island,—have appealed to the state and local educational authorities for help in the

matter. I should be more optimistic as to results if I did not recall that in one of the junior high school libraries in my home city where the librarians have been teaching library ethics to the classes for several years, the book collection is in a constantly disreputable condition due to mutilation and other abuse. As the Public Librarian looks at the public he cannot ignore these conditions even when soothed by the glow of a growing circulation, because they are growing faster than circulation itself is growing.

Among the other attributes of the public to which I would refer is its new book appetite. Ever since the invention of printing, there have been readers in every age who have been interested only in the recently published book. Being up-to-date, whether in style of dress or taste in reading is an eternal element in human experience. In the past quarter century, however, newly published books have received a degree of attention and publicity never before accorded them. The publication of a new book has been given a "news" value similar to a reported scientific discovery or the account of a football game. The increasing number of book-reviewing publications and the book pages in newspapers are among the agencies that have been and are making the reading public more and more "new-book conscious," and which, by the way, are devoting little or no attention to the publications of earlier origin. Syndicated single book-reviews and radio book-talks (even the many poor ones) contribute to the situation. And the commercial book clubs should not be forgotten. So today we find that "when a new book comes out, that's the book I want to read" is an accepted reading guide with many readers.

The effect of all this upon the administration of a public library is more than imaginary. With all these influences parading the virtues of a relatively small number of new books each year, there is being developed a growing population of readers who find that the public library is failing to satisfy their reading desires. They seem to forget that a public library is for the service of a great many different reading groups,—college and high school students, compelled to read the standard works of literature, and those adults who really enjoy reading the best writings of other days; readers with an intellectual curiosity in history, philosophy, economics, art, music, religion and science, are not to be ignored; an adequate collection of reference tools is needed for fact finding; technical books for mechanic and business man; books written for the reading ability and tastes of children,—all these are but a few of the demands a public library exists to meet. The "new book" reader must take her place among, and not in a preferred position ahead of them.

All the efforts a public library may employ (reasonable duplication of copies, reserve privilege, shorter term of loan, pay duplicate collection, etc.) in the attempt to better distribute its new book resources, are futile if these readers find no alternative, and many do not, if the new books they want are not available when requested. Unless a reader can receive pleasure and satisfaction from some of the books of yesterday and the day before, books that have stood up while many of the best sellers of later date have gone down to the scrap heap of forgotten print,—a public library can never succeed in satisfying. It is doomed to failure.

One more point that I would raise at this time in this consideration of the public is the growing tendency on the part of a large number of readers to carry over from their experience in department store and other merchandise purchasing contacts. In this they have not been entirely at fault because most librarians have aided and abetted them by trying to apply the same or similar practices to their library service. But, just because a yard-goods department in a store places an immediate order for a new shade of cloth because a customer has asked for it and will presumably purchase it, is not necessarily a good reason for a public library to rush off an order for a new title in European history, colonial furniture, or what not, because a readers requests it. It may be that other titles on the shelves of the library are superior to the one requested, if time is taken to study the matter. But when one of our fellow librarians tells us that it is the public library's duty to buy whatever the people ask for and buy it promptly because after all, it is their library, then we can only ask "What Price Book Selection?" "What Price Standards of Librarianship?"

We would not be tipped off our balance because a considerable number of readers "want what they want when they want it," if we remembered that the statistics of reserves in several libraries tell us that as many as from 10 to 25 per cent of all books requested are never even called for, thus considerably modifying the apparent importance of the requests. Especially should we realize that the inarticulate but quite as intelligent reader gets less as these more vocal requesters get more and more. Rush orders break into the routine which every Order and Cataloging Depart-

ment, to be half-way efficient, must maintain. There is a time and cost charge against every item thus ordered, whether we are dealing in garden hose or books, it doesn't matter. When such requests are justified, and only then, should they be given approval and a right of way ticket through the library.

This introduction of merchandising practises into the routine of the public library could be discussed at considerable length. There is only time to refer to the desire of many readers, even in a city with a fairly well distributed system of branches to have their books mailed to them or even delivered by the library's automobile. And now it is being found that because most libraries permit the reader who finds that she hasn't her purse with her (or because it is not convenient for him to pay the rather large charge for overdue books this week) to postpone payment, the reader feels hurt when informed several weeks later that the library cannot carry "charge accounts" indefinitely.

In other words, a public library is by its nature and purpose a "cash and carry" institution. Furthermore, it is not organized like the municipal water department, with service piped to one's house. In many libraries the administration has arrived at the point where it must consider how much clerical and mechanical detail it is justified in handling and can financially afford to carry on (at the expense of important book and information service) for a minority, but a very active minority, of readers with a well-developed flair for personal coddling.

In his chapter on "How to Make Town Libraries Successful" in *Public Libraries in the United States*, Frederic B. Perkins of the Boston Public Library wrote in 1876, "The duties of the public in dealing with the library must not be entirely passed over. A public sentiment will gradually be created and maintained which will be a great encouragement and assistance to the institution on all hands and an important confirmation of its popularity and success." As to the element of popularity and success, public librarians may look at the public with not a little satisfaction. We are told that the circulation of books in the United States in 1929 was 130,000,000 more than in 1923, and we know that there has been no general recession since 1929. But the past three decades of extreme liberalism in public library policy have indicated that while the reading consumption of American public libraries' resources has been raised to three books per capita, there has not been developed simultaneously a population of readers respectful of the rights of others and of public property. Considering that the annual public library bill in our country today is nearly $70,000,000, it would appear that both the public and the public librarian should take a good look at each other and reconsider some of the existing policies and practices. If the work of a public library in a community and the use of its materials do not assist in the development of unselfish citizenship, then we are far from succeeding in the attainment of our ideals in a democracy.

What shall we do about it? Critical examination is always easier than the suggestion of the proper remedy.

First, let's retrace our steps a bit in the direction of the earlier attitude toward the care of books. Even though print is not so precious in 1931 as it was in the sixteenth century, the care of a public library's books is important, because the ideal and the necessity of protecting public property is in serious danger of being lost in this age of ours. If it should ever disappear entirely, the public library would go with it. There is not time to discuss mechanical methods in this connection, such as more protective charging desk locations; exit book-examination; improvement in methods of the identification of readers at registration; introducing charging systems which give the reader no ground or opportunity to question the library's records; and more back-bone in following through cases of book delinquency. These will all help. But what I see as I look at the public is a picture in which major, not minor, changes appear to be the real issues.

In the first place, I would remove some of the emphasis on certain phases of circulation and apply that emphasis to what I believe to be the more vital parts of a public library's service to its people. We have not begun to serve the reader who really wants to read. I would give less room and make less effort in favor of those who do not and never will feed beyond the pasture of the lightest and most ephemeral literature that the library feels it can buy. Why maintain handsome library buildings manned by trained librarians for these folks! Most of them eventually drift off, still in search of the most effortless form of sedentary recreation they can find, and usually land in the zone of a radio set where all they have to do is to turn a dial and assume no further responsibility, mentally or physically. Of course there should be something for the slow but sure starter who later rises above this lower level of reading inclination. But we have exaggerated his importance.

The idea that every one who has mastered the mechanics of the reading process is a

potential reader of the worth while in print and is just itching to hop off on a glorious adventure, is an exploded myth, at least during your time and mine. The visualization of the public library as a steam-shovel, dumping books by the ton upon the heads (but not necessarily into the heads) of the public, may appeal to those who have mechanistic and quantitative aspirations, but there is little satisfaction in the picture for the qualitative-minded observer. In popularizing print,—"selling" the library to the community,—public library progress since 1876 has been notable indeed. But in the democratization of the worth while in reading, we are still in a state of aristocracy.

I would transfer the emphasis on mere circulation and face the loss of the popular appeal of great figures both to librarians and to many of the public in this Machine Age, and try to do some of the things which only the public library can and does do. Increased activity in Reader's Advisory Service and the Self Education of the Adult, perhaps the greatest opportunities placed at the doors of public libraries in a quarter of a century; better and more adequate reading assistance to children; and the extensive and intensive development of our fact-finding and research facilities,—in printed matter, and methods, but more especially in trained personnel;—these are the features which make the American public library a unique and valuable community asset. Though anybody may buy or rent books for recreational and occasional reading, there is no other place in town for the book guidance I refer to.

In closing, may I remind you that the public library as it exists today was not created instantly by an all-seeing God, nor was it patterned and built over-night by some wise philosopher. It is the result of a step-by-step development, beginning ages ago when tendencies appeared in library management that were never dreamed of as prophecies of a future such as we have with us today as our present. Even now, public libraries are being changed before our very eyes. Just witness the effect of the school libraries upon our Children's Departments. Therefore, to advocate a substantial change which appears to shake the present structure may not be entirely visionary nor the effervescence of a disordered mind. With the almost unqualified approval of our boards of trustees, the librarians have made the American public library what it is today and to no small degree, what the library's public is today. It is largely in our hands as to what the public library becomes tomorrow.

As we turn away from looking at the public and see ourselves, operating million dollar plants on quarter million dollar budgets (and more), and realize that we need and expect still more funds, let us be sure that the work that we propose to do deserves it. Many substantial citizens still look upon the public library as a desirable but far from essential institution, in their respective cities. If our program is not convincing in its apparent importance, it is within our power to make it so by first sensing it. And then revising it before, let me add, we are not asked to, but told to, a situation in which some other public institutions are finding themselves.

Josiah P. Quincy wrote more than fifty years ago, in discussing the relation of reading to the assimilation of knowledge, that "it is certainly possible that the usefulness of a free library may increase in inverse ratio to the circulation of its books." There is much food for thought in those words today. This may sound like rank heresy expressed at a meeting of the Lending Section, but History tells us, does it not, that heresy sometimes becomes accepted doctrine.

A VAGABOND SONG

There is something in the autumn that is native to my blood—
Touch of manner, hint of mood;
And my heart is like a rhyme,
With the yellow and the purple and the crimson keeping time.

The scarlet of the maples can shake me like a cry
Of bugles going by.
And my lonely spirit thrills
To see the frosty asters like a smoke upon the hills.

There is something in October sets the Gypsy blood astir;
We must rise and follow her,
When from every hill of flame
She calls and calls each vagabond by name.

—BLISS CARMAN.

What Does the Public Want?

By JOHN ADAMS LOWE

Assistant Librarian, Brooklyn, New York, Public Library

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, a safe storehouse for public books, died long ago, suffocated within itself. The public library, a free distributor of books, passes, having scattered its energies like falling leaves in the autumn. Today the public library, a vital intelligence center, takes shape, girding its strength for tomorrow's service to those who find in books, recreation, information and inspiration.

It is still a vital question—"What Does the Public Want?" What the public wants today, is not what the public wanted yesterday. New conditions call for modern methods of meeting demands in the public library, just as they do in transportation, in merchandising, and every relationship of civic life.

Before we can answer "What does the Public Want," we must ask "What is the Public?" or more specifically "What is the Librarian's Public?"

Instantly many shout back in reply the old formulas, so often repeated that they have been clothed with something of authority. They say: "The Library serves the whole city which is its acknowledged field." "The entire population, every man, woman and child is an integral part of the Librarian's Public." "We are the People's University." "We base all our statistics on the per capita of the entire population, and that makes them ours." Does it?

Sometimes I feel that we owe an apology to any citizen intelligent enough to listen while we make such proud boasts because of the presumption in the statements themselves, and because of the inaccuracy implied. Have we not gone far enough in trying, unintentionally perhaps, certainly not maliciously, in hoodwinking the general public and in insulting our own intelligence with the semblance of the truth of any such belief? Have we not reached the time when we need to face the issue squarely, and restudy our program in the light of what we find.

Let us look at your community, for that is undoubtedly typical of most communities of its size and character. How many people in your town are by habit and by desire real readers of books? What proportion of them would go as far as Mr. Ole Rölvaag in demonstrating his words: "I could do without banks; I have hands and might learn to make things for barter. I could get along without bakeries; the art of making bread is not difficult; so too with shoe shops and clothing stores. Not so with books, for they are to the soul what bread is to my body. My own lifespan is short and narrow. Yet nothing but life matters to me. To learn about it, I must seek out the great interpreters, the poets, the dramatists, and the novelists. For their senses are keener than mine." Is it true that your entire population seek such interpreters of life?

Inspired by a courageous zeal to know the truth about the matter, have you ever taken the pains to make a survey of the entire adult population of your town? When you do, I dare say that the majority of those whom you interview will tell you that they do not read at all. This is so in spite of the fact that more or less at public expense they have been taught to read. Suppose you should approach this group with your most alluring charm and say: "Here is a quiet room in your own home. Here is a big overstuffed chair which offers great comfort. We will arrange a mellow light. Here, fresh from the public library shelves, is that most fascinating story everyone is talking about. Come, read, for the evening." What would happen? I'll make a wager that fifty per cent of them would dash out the front door and up the street to the nearest movie, or would turn disdainfully, and with complete boredom, and would flick on the radio. No worse punishment could be devised for some minds than to be set to reading. Even for the great mass of the movie-visioned and radio-minded, books make little or no appeal, in spite of some suggestion of them on the screen and over the air. Can you claim the huge mass of the people who are consistent newspaper readers, but who limit their reading practically to the daily columns? Magazines cater chiefly to the taste for stories. It is estimated that in one year, in this country alone, over 625,000,000 magazines were bought; this is fully three times the total of all the books of all kinds lent in a year by all the libraries of the country. Another group is smaller than those we have mentioned but they are readers.

Paper presented before Lending Section, New Haven Conference.

They belong to reading clubs. They buy their own books. They depend on book stores and neighbors for guidance and advice, for answering such questions as arise. They resent restraining rules of public institutions. They find public library books too soiled and worn for their pleasure. The City has lawyers, doctors, ministers, teachers, engineers, business men, professional men who have known and used books somewhere in their careers. How regularly and earnestly do they come to the library?

If my assumption is correct, there remains of the entire community, only a small minority who are the real readers of books provided by the municipal policy. This is the librarian's public. I think we are safe in saying it ranges largely between the ages of eighteen and thirty years. It is limited to those whose occupations in college and school, business or elsewhere have to do with books. It is made up of boys and girls who have responded to the lure of books under the careful guidance of specially trained children's librarians. Casual readers of magazines, itinerant seekers of the curious, irregular applicants for facts or definite bits of information for a specific need, occasional professional and business men, authors or compilers of papers for women's literary clubs, and a few who earnestly follow a course of "Reading With a Purpose." Then too there are many women of the middle class who read only new fiction. These make up the librarian's somewhat limited public. Many of them are irregular and casual, but there is at least a nucleus of real interest in books among them. We like to think of the greater part of them as those who can and do vitally enter into the library's book service as a matter of privilege. They accept it as a trust, and avail themselves of it intelligently and worthily.

The librarian's public is limited, but it is not because of any meagre offering. Quite the contrary. Have we not thrown our treasures wide open to the handling and even mishandling of any who pass by? Have we not made it possible for any reader to take an unlimited number of books at a time, without regard to the number he can read with profit in the time allowed him? Have we not gone out with registration cards in our hands and hurled them broadcast to people, in schools, in theatres, in factories, everywhere? We have whipped up interest in the use of the library for everyone through the radio, the newspaper, and every publicity device known. We have promised everything in book service until some of them have been lured to try us out. We have even scooped up collections of books, piled them into automobiles and put them at the very doors of those who might be deprived of books if left to their own efforts. It may be that we have followed too much the trend of the times and have flung liberty and freedom to license without self-restraint and we are reaping the harvest.

No, when all is said and done, the librarian's public is limited because it is itself the indication and the result of what the public wants. The masses divide themselves into classes. They make their wants known through group demands upon the tax-levied funds. It must not be forgotten that what the public wants it gets, and it pays for it with more or less willingness. Among other things, it is evident that the public wants from municipal funds, many schools, some museums, a few free lectures, a few free books, some playgrounds and band concerts. They want roads, better transportation, municipal airports, parks and beaches.

This needs no proof, but by way of illustration may I set down one example? One of the playgrounds in our city is called Coney Island. You have your "Coney Island," no matter whether you live by the sea or in the mountains. I use it for a symbol. You may substitute the particular name that you would use for it, for the comparison would probably hold in similar proportion.

The masses choose Coney Island in preference to the public library. There is evidently satisfaction to be found in sprawling around in the blistering sun, on a beach so littered with exposed human flesh that hardly a handsbreadth of sea sand is visible. It appears that strolling mobs bring the joys and inspiration gained from companionship. The Steeplechase and Devil's Den present all the thrills of adventure promised by the rasping howl of the noisy barkers. Steaming hot dogs and fried onions feed the "inner man." Why, why should anyone take these satisfactions, joys and adventures second-hand from the pages of a book? The people express their feelings about the whole matter in a very concrete way. A few years ago they voted to build a boardwalk for our Coney Island at a cost of one and a half million dollars. That same year, in spite of all the pleadings, the only appropriation which could be wrung out of an over-burdened tax levy for the public libraries of the entire borough pledged to serve two and a half million people was three quarters of a million dollars, or just one half of this one item allowed at one of many playgrounds. The official count of the visitors at Coney Island for the first three days of the

present season numbered 1,113,000 persons. In all history, I doubt if ever in three consecutive days there crossed the thresholds of our library 1,113,000 persons; and this in spite of the fact that there is a branch within a few minutes of the homes of the majority of the people.

Is it criminal to acknowledge that the librarian's public is limited? Certain it is that the library has been of infinite help to many who have chosen to run to it for succor. When we get over our sentimentality about our importance and all-inclusiveness, when we come to a thorough understanding of our public's real need, we shall be happy to concentrate on the job in hand. So shall we give greater usefulness in the future. From every side forces are working on the public mind. The library enters the lists with them as we have indicated. Unless we can make the library such a real and vital force in the lives of those who use it that others seeing the benefits derived shall earnestly desire them for themselves, our ideal is lost.

You need from me no catalog enumeration of What the Librarian's Public Wants. What we do need to keep in mind as we arrange our program to meet his needs intelligently is a definite understanding of the function of the modern public library, its aims, purposes and methods. Against this background must be measured the wants of the public with an aim to determine the intrinsic value and appropriateness in the library scheme.

The function of the library of today and tomorrow is book service which "may be distinguished as service for education, service for learning, and service for research." It moves definitely away from the free community book exchange which has characterized its service. It attempts to provide through the best books reliable source material of information and fact. It tries to furnish immediate and intelligent service to all who seek it, cooperating with other educational agencies as a clearing house for ideas. It offers to youth and age, resources for self-education through reading. It provides guidance in reading to children, young people and adults. It strives to create a love for books and to foster the habit of library usage. It is not a compulsory institution. It cherishes as a basic principle of library service the necessity of a voluntary service on the part of a reader. It does not try to pour the plastic mind of a child into a mould which will determine his cast forever. It rebels against forcing any adult by short-cut methods to try to seize for himself a certified education.

Such an institution does not come into perfection in a day or a year. I presume that our program for it will be divided into two main objectives, one definitely planned to attract the potential reading masses, however superficially and temporarily, and the other to give to the earnest seeker for information any amount of time or data within our power. As the emphasis given the former gradually diminishes, that put upon the latter increases.

When we come to estimate the wants of our public we find that they may be gathered pretty definitely under two heads, the ability of the staff and the quality of the books. The staff must be a corps of competent, technically trained, experienced workers. All tendencies point to the day when librarians will be of professional rank in training and ability. They must possess the native genius of a consecrated book lover, a personality which wins confidence, and an ability to apply the principals of human psychology.

Of all the staff, the public esteems most highly those whom he meets at the lending desk. Nothing is so important to him as what he gets and the way in which he gets it. In the library of tomorrow, he asks and may expect to find, our best people at this strategic point. Clerks and machines at the charging desk? We shall provide all the best mechanical equipment necessary to expedite real service, without making either the staff or the borrower victims of the machines themselves. Courtesy, smiles, good humor, an even disposition, good health are demanded by borrowers. The reader hopes to find that she who helps him use his newly increased leisure in the pursuits of knowledge so earnestly commended on all sides, shall herself have found opportunity to keep up a similar growth in culture. All this will cost more money, this staff, but so will the whole service. It will prove its value however. Nothing is so important to the library as the interpreter of its resources and its ideals, for that interpreter meets the public as no one else can.

What does the librarian's public want when it comes to books? Well, sometimes it seems to me as if he wanted the whole world of books with a gold band around it. You know what he wants, everything, on the day of publication, without censorship, fresh and clean, when and as he needs it. I question whether many of these demands are legitimate in a library claiming to be an educational institution.

I would like someday to see a library in a medium sized city administered with the policy that it would maintain a book collection of say thirty thousand very carefully selected titles, and never appreciably more. What su-

perb service could be given with an upstanding staff and such a collection. Weeding would be the rule. Duplication would be in order. Selectivity in purchases would win approval of readers because of time and energy saved them by book authorities. The genuine library reader would come in for most satisfactory service.

Such a policy is based on the fact that it is financially impossible to provide even one book for every registered borrower every two weeks, or twenty-five volumes a year. It is an acknowledgment that the commercial agencies can distribute books better than the library. It is the acceptance of relief from the responsibility of supplying all the reading matter for all the people. The flood of print today provides every man with an abundant selection of just the sort of thing he wants.

The reader wants books that are authoritative, up-to-date, and applicable to his present need. Simply numbers of volumes piled on shelves have no significance for him. But why go further? The Lending Section last year established fundamental doctrines on "best" books and "popular" books. The Editorial Board of the American Library Association now promises a new publication, "What People Want to Read About," being a study of the reading habits of people classified by occupations.

Two practices growing out of the book wants of the public have no place in the library we have been talking about. They have ravaged book collections in some of the large cities, and spread their attack to other fields. Does it mean that among our wits we have no solution for the pest of school and college textbooks and the blight of mutilation?

Colleges without library and dormitory facilities and many public schools apparently make only a gesture of providing collateral reading. Students who have always been supplied with free text-books resent the purchase of their own in college. Taxes have bought books; use them. So a small army of boys and girls ransack the public library. They rush from branch to branch to find their prey. Books so drawn are frequently kept for months from the use of legitimate library readers. This practice builds up no library consciousness. To such persons a library is a warehouse. Records show that the majority of such borrowers are never seen in the library after their formal study is over.

How long are we going to allow our encyclopaedias and other reference books to be cut and mutilated by people too lazy and too lacking in civic responsibility to copy the material for notes? A book collection which is made up of volumes from which pages and illustrations have been cut cannot hope to serve an intelligent group of readers of the sort we claim for the modern public library. The public wants its books taken care of by the people who are paid to take care of them. If the public should suddenly ask for a reckoning of this stewardship as touching theft and mutilation, some librarians might be hard put to it to give a clean bill. The fact that school and college librarians are making the same howl is no solution. Their institutions claim to develop civic responsibility.

If the rights of legitimate borrowers cannot be protected by supervision, or rules, or both it may be that the time has come to go back to closed shelves for the greater part of the collection in communities in which theft and mutilation are rife. As for the curriculum demands, why not turn the pupils back to their own institutions to provide such material? Some people believe that it is no real college or school until it offers adequate library facilities. On every side we hear of the marvelous work of the school libraries. They will undoubtedly recognize service to the returned wayfarers as their own and welcome them with enthusiasm.

In urging such a restricted service as it would at first appear, I offer no diminishing of activity. It will find different emphasis. The library missionary spirit in which we have all been brought up will still function. We shall seek to win slowly, quietly and permanently, those who have real need of our selection of books, our guidance in reading and study, and our continuity of dependable service. Numbers may take care of themselves.

So enthusiastically I invite you to a librarianship which, in the midst of what the public wants, "directs the great source of power in books to the service of man." We shall take courage to go forward in the spirit expressed by Dr. Locke in his Guild Hall speech, when he said, "As a public librarian, my object is not so much instruction as education, not so much advancement of the mass as the opportunity of enabling the individual to free himself from the mass, and to rise to the heights of which he is personally capable. Here is opportunity to develop leaders of thought and action so vital to the source of democracy."

Nothing ever becomes real 'till it is experienced, even a Proverb is no Proverb to you 'till Life has illustrated it.—KEATS.

The Rental Service in the University of California Library

By JOHN S. RICHARDS

Assistant Librarian, University of California Library, Berkeley

THE PERENNIAL nature of the reserved book problem is nowhere better shown than in the record of changing systems at the University of California Library. All the usual variations have been tried. The first small collection of books, administered at the loan desk, had by 1925 grown into a collection of 23,000 volumes administered in two places at considerable expense to the University. One more attempt to improve conditions was made in the Fall of 1925 when the open-shelf, self-help reserved book room was inaugurated. At first this looked like an almost ideal system. It combined what was believed to be adequate duplication of books with complete freedom of access and considerable deduction in administrative costs, this reduction being from about $35. to $15. a day. The system was generally popular and successful the first year. Perhaps it took the students that first year to learn how to take advantage of its weaknesses.

In any case, it was soon evident that the ratio of one book to ten or fifteen students made insufficient allowance for the procrastination which undergraduates too frequently show in the preparation of their work. Thirty-five copies of a title would meet the needs of a class of 500 students until the week before the examination or assignment was due, but during that last week there would be constant complaint of a shortage of books. Both students and faculty began to ask that more books be placed on two-hour reserve. Neither space nor assistance had been provided for two-hour work, but the Library was obliged to undertake a considerable amount of it in self-defense. The last minute rush for books brought abuse of the open-shelf privileges; books were hidden about the room, or were hoarded.

This last minute rush also produced an increasing amount of theft from the room, books being smuggled out under overcoats, in pockets, etc. Thus, while in the first year under the new system seventy-two fewer books were reported missing than in the year before, the third showed a loss of eighty-two volumes more than in the last year under the old system. The result was that the books in most demand were drawn in behind the desk, and extra assistance had to be provided to handle the charging. Our loss then dropped from 669 to 589 for the year, but the cost of running the room increased from about $19. a day to approximately $25. a day, or almost twice what it had cost the first year the new system was in operation. Popular sentiment regarding the room gradually changed. Students and faculty were constantly asking to have books placed on two-hour reserve, and the desirability of the open-shelf system was frankly questioned. One of the arguments in favor of the open-shelf system was that a student had the opportunity to look over a number of books on a given subject and in this way select his reading more intelligently. The students themselves claimed that they went to the reserved collection for a definite assignment, and all too frequently the book containing this assignment could not be found.

In 1929 it was decided to experiment with a rental system which should supplement the reserved book service. It was hoped that this would make possible greater duplication of reserved books, and fewer restrictions in their use. To this end we planned to give reserved book service on a smaller collection of books, all of which should be on two-hour reserve, the system which had proved so popular and satisfactory. Since a book on two-hour reserve has about twice the turn-over of one on open-shelf reserve, this would reduce the size of the reserved collection and release a considerable part of the duplicates for the rental service. To this nucleus should be added additional copies as rapidly as the demand develops. This would make unnecessary a set ratio of books to students. The rental collection could approach, if not actually reach, one copy for each student willing to pay the nominal rental charge.

The principles underlying the rental service which came into being in August, 1929, are briefly these: The rental collection is composed of all duplicate copies in the Library in excess of three. These are issued to students with few restrictions. A student may borrow as many books as he likes, and keep

them as long as he desires up to the close of the semester or session in which borrowed. Upon returning the books he pays for them at the rate of three cents per day by coupons purchased at the Comptroller's Office.

Although the rental collection includes all copies in excess of three, no attempt has been made to limit the number of copies in the reserved book room to three. Books purchased from rental funds are regularly sent to the two-hour desk when needed, and additional copies bought to supply the demand at the rental desk.

Intensive two-hour service on a smaller collection of books has made it possible to give better service in the reserved book room than ever before. Each book works to the limit, and there is almost no chance of loss. We know exactly what the demand is, as every book is signed for each time it is used. A system of holds allows a student to reserve a book which may not be in when first asked for. All of this enables the reserved book room staff to know accurately what the demands are and to meet them promptly. By careful cooperation between the two-hour desk and the rental desk, it has been possible to increase the efficiency of the book collection. Books are constantly being interchanged between the two desks, depending on where they are most needed. Thus, no pressure has been brought to bear to make the students get their books at the rental desk. A student who rents a book does so from choice, not because he is unable to procure a copy at the reserved book desk.

The rental service has been in operation for a year and a half. It is now generally accepted by the student body, and genuinely popular with many students. It is not unusual for a class to adjourn almost in a body to the rental desk after an assignment has been made. If there are not enough copies of the book on hand, the students leave their names with the attendant and are notified when the books are available. It is often possible to order new copies and have them available within twenty-four hours. Under our old reserved system, we seldom purchased more than forty copies of a book. With the greater buying power afforded by the rental service, we may now have well over a hundred copies of titles used by large classes.

There is some evidence that a rental system has a regulative effect on the use of books. Students who rent books tend to procure them as soon as an assignment is made. Since they are paying for the use of them, they are apt to return them as soon as the assignment can be prepared. This distributes the demand for the books over a longer period, and reduces the last-minute rush at the reserved book desk.

Statistics kept for one large class in Political Science showed that about one-fourth of the students borrowed copies from the rental desk in preference to using the book in the reserved book room. Since the rental books are used by groups of students at boarding and fraternity houses, the percentage of students actually using rental copies was, of course, considerably larger.

In the year and a half, we have circulated over 40,000 books. During the period from August, 1929 to December, 1930, inclusive, the income from rented books amounted to $8,286. During the first year, while the system was experimental, the Library received the regular yearly appropriation of $5,000 for reserved books. For the current year, 1930-31, that has been reduced to $3,500. The budget prepared for 1931-32 contains only $2,000 for reserved books. If the use of the rental service continues to grow, the income derived from it will soon be adequate for the purchase of all books needed for collateral reading.

We feel that the rental service has passed the experimental stage at the University of California Library. Books are more easily obtainable than ever before and administration of the collection is more flexible and efficient. These are the tests which would seem to measure best the adequacy of any reserved system.

Cut by courtesy of
Old Stone Bank,
Providence, R. I.

Librarian Authors

ANNE MORRIS BOYD was born and spent her childhood in a small Illinois town, later living in Lexington, Kentucky, where her first college work was done at the Kentucky State University. At sixteen, financial conditions made it necessary for her to leave college and she began her career as a teacher in a country school in central Illinois. It was here that the power of books on the lives of children was realized and she decided to be a children's librarian. Her own book treasures of childhood, along with many favorite books belonging to her brothers, were placed in the school not so much because a library seemed needed, but as a piece of disciplinary strategy for, she says, "it was shortly discovered that the only means at my command for taming the seventy-three 'incorrigibles' who sat at my feet lay in sufficiently arousing their interest in pictures and stories to distract their minds from their customary pursuits of making life unbearable for the teacher." Saturdays and vacations during these teaching years were spent in assisting the librarian of a small town public library and it was this librarian and the board of trustees who encouraged Miss Boyd to continue her college education and take up library work as a profession.

Anne Morris Boyd

While attending the James Milliken University at Decatur, Illinois, she spent many profitable and delightful hours as an apprentice-assistant in the Decatur Public Library. She spent a year as head of the children's department in the Decatur Public Library and four years as librarian of the Teacher's College at Whitewater, Wisconsin, where she had supervision of the library for the children in the Training School and taught children's literature to prospective teachers. Largely as an outgrowth of this work with story telling groups at the Teacher's College a historical pageant "Minnieska" (not published) was written commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the town of Whitewater; it was presented by the college students and town's people in 1915. During the years at Whitewater a number of children's plays and stories were also written.

Miss Boyd states that it was while librarian of the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kansas, her first position of importance after graduating from the James Milliken University, that she "became enamored of government publications." A basement full of them awaited her sorting, classifying, and cataloging and this acquaintance with them aroused an interest in and enthusiasm for their contents which has continued and gave her confidence to attempt a Manual (*The United States Government Publications as Sources of Information for Libraries*, H. W. Wilson, 1931) for use in her classes in the Library School.

In 1917 she entered the University of Illinois Library School, graduating with the degree of B.L.S. in 1918, and since that time has been a member of the faculty; her chief interest and work being that of teaching Book Selection to would-be librarians, although the teaching of other subjects, including that of government publications and the selecting of books for the general reading of all the University students, claims part of her time and attention. Except for the play *Exit Miss Lizzie Cox*, a bibliotherapeutic tragedy in one act published by H. W. Wilson in 1926, which was written for the faculty of the Library School to present before the local Library Club, her writing has been limited to articles in the professional magazines on library topics, particularly that of children's literature.

THE
LIBRARY JOURNAL

October 1, 1931

Editorial Forum

IT is significant that at the Lending Library Section of the Yale Conference there should have been three papers, all of which we print in this issue, one by a college professor, the other two by practical librarians of long experience, raising the question of the library public and its demands. All of them seem to agree that there is too much latitude for those who come to the library chiefly for the newest book or the current sensation and that emphasis might be better placed on the needs of the selective public who are really interested in literature and in good books. This is closely related to the old, old question of the proportion of fiction in libraries and of the use of a large proportion of library money in buying the newest thing. It would indeed be interesting to make a laboratory test of a selective library which did not attract the merely casual or surface reader but catered to those qualified or seeking to qualify to appreciate books at their best. A branch library in a fairly good neighborhood in one of our great cities would be an interesting place in which to make this test, that results might be compared with those in other branches under like conditions.

IT SEEMS reasonably certain that the income tax law as quoted in our last issue covers those engaged directly in library work in libraries which are entirely the property of and supported by the municipality or other sub-division of the state. The unsolved question is how far the principle may be applied to libraries which, though not entirely the property of or governed by the state, county, city or town, are public libraries in the sense that their books and services are entirely at the disposal of the public without charge. There are throughout the states many libraries of this sort which represent the generosity of private citizens or associations who have saved the state the original cost of the building and library and through endowments contribute to its maintenance. In Brooklyn, for instance, the old Brooklyn Library turned over to the Brooklyn Public Library property to the extent of three quarters of a million dollars, now of nearly double that value, which until recently was administered by a board, half of them appointed by the Mayor, the other half representing the old library, though now all are appointed by the Mayor. Books are purchased largely from endowments left by generous citizens for that purpose. In Massachusetts there are many cases, as in Stockbridge, where the building, original library and additional ground have been given practically to the town, though still administered by a board elected by the Stockbridge Library Association, on which, however, the town meeting elects a special town representative, while the purchase of books comes largely from endowments or from special subscriptions by interested citizens. It would seem hard indeed that when a city or town is saved the expense of such provision of library facilities the organization should be fined by the imposition of taxes upon librarians, while there is broader and more liberal treatment in the case of libraries for which the entire bill must be footed by the city or town. Certainly the Board of Tax Appeals should take as liberal a view of this matter as the text of the law permits.

WE CONFESS to and regret misinformation in the statement given to us on apparently good authority that Mr. Winchester was retired from his post at Paterson after forty-three years' service without pay, and we print, with due apology, the letter of President Ross of the Library Board on the subject. There were, nevertheless, cruel circumstances connected with the action. Mr. Winchester had himself asked that a younger man should be appointed as his assistant librarian to serve with him for a period which he requested should be made until October 1st. The board, however, made the change as of May 1st, and unfortunately at the same time the post of director of the art department, which Mrs. Winchester had earned in the competition by a civil service examination, was abolished. It is reported that the public have been so pleased with the results of this feature that there is much criticism as to its discontinuance, but the Library Board may have reasons for their action with which the general public is naturally unacquainted.

Library Chat

Adventures of A Lost Leaf

ABOUT 1850, the Librarian of the Redwood Library discovered, that from one of the early books upon its shelves, there had been cut out and stolen an important leaf upon which was a beautiful initial letter painted by hand. As there was no means of discovering who was the thief, nothing was done about it for about thirty years.

In 1876 came a postal addressed to the Redwood Library from Reading, Pennsylvania, as follows:

"Sir;
Have you a copy of the *Bible* printed about 1487, with one of the leafs (sic) in Ezekiel gone? By answering this, you will confer a favour on the writer."

who declared himself to be a physician living there. An affirmative answer having been sent, another postal card was received.

"I have a leaf of a *Bible* from Ezekiel, the first chapter. It has been in my possession since 1848, when I was practicing medicine in Providence. I think it was given me by a student at Brown University. Perhaps he cut it out."

What reply was made to this does not appear on the record. It was evident that the writer was informed of the fact that his leaf was undoubtedly the missing one for somewhat later he wrote as follows:

"Your letter concerning a leaf of the Latin *Bible* said to be missing from the Redwood Library is before me, and I reply, as follows:

1st. I have no positive knowledge that the leaf I have is the one missing from the above *Bible*.

2nd. If I were sure it was I should not part with it for I prize it very highly.

3rd. If it is the missing leaf, it certainly does not injure the value of your *Bible* very much evidently when it has been absent about thirty-two years and no member of the organization was aware of it until his attention was called to it by my epistle.

4th. My Relations in Newport, the Clarkes, Greenes and Gibbs have done so much for the Library that I may certainly feel that I had a purchased right to one leaf from an antiquated *Bible*, About 1848, I came into possession of the referred to leaf. My impression is that it was presented to me by a student of Brown University. I wish you would inform me what the Society would sell me the *Bible* for."

The Directors upon receiving this last letter desired the Reverend Dr. Malcolm one of the Board, to reply; which he did as follows:

"Newport, Rhode Island,
September 11th, 1880

My dear Sir.

Your note of August 25th was duly received. You say you have no positive knowledge that the leaf you have is the one missing from our *Bible*. The leaf missing contains the 1st and 2nd chapters of Ezekiel: which I believe is the leaf you have. I think you are mistaken in suggesting that no members of the Redwood Library knew of the missing leaf for 32 years: the fact that it was missing was known; but, as it had been stolen from the book, we did not know the thief, or what became of it. To me it seems probable that the student of Brown University may have taken it.

I do not know what the Directors would sell the *Bible* for, but I will enquire at the next meeting.

Now, as it seems to me, the whole matter consists in this:

1st: The leaf is ours by *right* and *law*. It was our misfortune to have it stolen, but that does not destroy our legal right to it wherever found.

2nd: The leaf is ours by the claims of *honor*. You came into possession of what did not belong to the person from whom you received it; but, at that moment, it was ours.

I do not hesitate to say that if it was in my possession, I would be happy to return it to the Library; and upon further thought; I trust you will send it to us.

With great respect,
Very Truly Yours,
G. G. Malcolm."

Evidently this letter brought the possessor of stolen property to his senses for the leaf was returned in the frame in which it hung upon his walls, and can be seen today in the Library as a warning to all who are inclined to mutilate or appropriate any of our property. Alas, this army of sinners has by no means passed away.

The book from which this leaf was taken is an interesting copy of the *Bible*, having been printed at Venice in 1487 by George Arrivabene Mantuanus. By the time this book appeared, most printers were not so particular regarding the quality of the books which they printed as had been Gutenberg and his immediate followers, and this copy is a specimen of the hurried spirit in which they produced, at that time, their books. Still, owing to its early date, it has a very considerable interest aside from the characteristics of the book itself and its illuminations.

It is printed in two columns on each page. All being printed on four hundred and five leaves which are not numbered. There are fifty-two lines to the page. The initial letters, spaces for which were left blank in the printing, have been designed and colored by hand, alternately red and blue. Prefixed to most of the books are short prologues or prefaces; with more elaborate prefaces at the beginning of each of the four Gospels. A few leaves are missing as is likely to be the case with books of that period, but the copy which we have is so nearly complete and with such an interesting history that it should be highly valued.

It contains a book plate of John Brett, M.D., who presented it to the Library in 1746.

R. T.

Taken from *Redwood Library Booklist*, Vol. XVII, No. 2, May, 1931, Newport, R. I.

Book Reviews

New Handbook on Library Science

"HANDBUCH DER BIBLIOTHEKSWISSENSCHAFT. Herausgegeben von Fritz Milkau. Erster Band. Schrift und Buch. Bearbeitet von Hans Schnorr v. Carolsfeld, Aloys Böhmer, Albert Boeckler, Karl Löffler, Karl Preisendanz, Erich von Rath, Julius Rodenberg, Hans Wegener, Max Joseph Husung, Ernst Kuhnert, Georg Schneider, Axel von Harnack. 1931. Otto Harrassowitz, Leipzig."

Thus reads the title-page of the first volume of that great handbook on library science which for some time has been in preparation under the direction of the famous librarian, Fritz Milkau. The writer does not now recall, nor has he at hand references which might serve to refresh his memory, as to just when the name Fritz Milkau became one to conjure with among the younger librarians of a generation ago, that is those among us who were then beginners and consequently in need of and eager for information and guidance. Hartwig, Dziatzko, Schwenke, Pietschmann, DeLisle, Biagi, Funmagalli, Garnett, Fortescue, Cutter, Dewey, Winsor, Poole, Billings were among the leading guides and preceptors of the time, their ranks, however, being fast depleted by death and retirement. Under the circumstances it was natural that we of the incoming generation should frequently discuss the names of librarians coming to the front and who gave promise of possessing qualities and experience requisite for leadership. Among these names that of Milkau soon became prominent.

It was probably in the middle nineties, whether in the columns of the *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen,* or on the title-page of a list of dissertations of the University of Bonn, I can not say, that the name "Fritz Milkau" first came to my attention. A year or so later there appeared his *Centralkataloge und Titeldrucke,* a work which has ever since served as the chief source of information in regard to union catalogs, printed entries and other efforts tending to cooperation in cataloging. Other works which appeared during the next twelve or fifteen years from the pen of this exceptionally capable, scholarly and industrious worker and for which librarians in all countries owe him a heavy debt of gratitude, are, *Internationale Bibliographie der Naturwissenschaften, Die Königliche und Universitätsbibliothek zu Breslau,* and especially his *Die Bibliotheken,* in *Kultur der Gegenwart,* that splendid series of monographs covering practically all fields of human knowledge, which appeared some twenty years ago, many of which are still the outstanding contributions on the subjects of which they treat.

In this last study the writer showed in a striking manner how important are written records for advancement of culture, also the prominent part played by libraries and librarians in the preservation of written and printed sources, as well as in the recording and systematic arrangement of all this material for the service of scholars. His historical sketches of the development of libraries and of the library profession are notable contributions.

Particularly worthy of repeated reading is the section in which he shows how, during the middle and latter part of the nineteenth century, the idea had finally been forced on directing and appointing authorities, that librarianship was a profession which demanded the full time and energy of the man; that it must not be regarded as a part-time assignment to be entrusted to some professor as a sort of "Nebenamt." A careful reading of this section of the work is particularly recommended to those who still harbor the delusion that one who has completed a university education, perhaps with some teaching or administrative experience, is quite competent to direct the affairs of a large library. Milkau was one of the librarians who especially contributed to the settlement of this question once and for all, at any rate as far as Germany and most of the countries of continental Europe are concerned. As for America, we still find now and then an administrative authority, not yet awake to the fact that the direction of a library by an untrained person, no matter how well qualified mentally or physically, no matter how pressing his need of a position, is in most civilized countries looked upon as a *zurückgelegtes Stadium.* That the idea still persists among us may be due in part to the fact that few, if any, of the publications on librarianship as a profession, which proved so effective in the discussions in Germany, particularly during the period 1850-1890, have been translated into English. Even had they been made available through translation it is doubtful if the appointive authorities would have been influenced to the same degree here

as in Europe. Allowance must be made, on the one hand for the older civilization, on the other for more centralized control of appointments by governments, something which offers less opportunity and fewer temptations to favor candidates long on social, political or academic backing, but short on experience, as against those with proper professional training.

Fritz Milkau is now Librarian Emeritus, having retired at the age of seventy. On the title-page of the new work of which volume one has just appeared the name of the editor appears without any title or degree. This is not due to any lack of titles, as Milkau was at the time of his retirement Generaldirektor of the National Library, Geheimer Regierungsrat, Professor, Doctor of Philology, Doctor of Laws, etc. The writer suspects, however, that like most great men Milkau is modest. Besides, whatever his attitude toward the many academic or official titles conferred on him during a long and honorable professional career it is likely that no honors accorded him have given greater satisfaction than the tribute paid him by his closest associates and colleagues on the occasion of his seventieth anniversary when he was variously referred to as Preceptor Primarius, Leader, Primus inter pares, Senex ad multos annos amicus iuvenis, etc.

Characteristic of the man is also the quotation selected for the title-page of volume one of the monumental work now being published under his direction, *Domine praesta legentibus profectum*. That a librarian at seventy-one has still the strength, courage and enterprise to assume the heavy burdens incidental to the publication of what promises to be the most comprehensive and voluminous of any work on library science which has so far appeared, speaks well for the heritage and past life of the man. True, among his collaborators are found the names of some of the foremost of living librarians and bibliographers, some retired, others still in active service. While the able cooperation of such men will mean much to the editor, the writing of the admirable introduction found in volume one, of several of the most important chapters of volume two, the planning, coordination and seeing through the press of so extensive and detailed a work, is likely to test the mental and physical powers of even the strongest. Another year should witness the completion of the publication, an event which will be welcomed, not least by the teachers and students in the many library schools. There is small prospect that the present work, like Graesel's *Handbuch*, will ever be translated into French, Italian, or some other language, an additional reason for demanding knowledge of German from those who aim to enter these schools.

I have ventured to write these few words of appreciation of the services rendered by Dr. Milkau, not only to the libraries and librarians of his native land, but to those of the world at large. They are offered by one who, while he has not been among those fortunate enough to profit from personal association and contact with the man, has nevertheless for nearly thirty-five years had frequent occasion to feel grateful for information and advice received, either through printed contributions, or by way of correspondence. The completion of the present task, the editing of the *Handbuch der Bibliothekswissenschaft*, should form a fitting climax and conclusion to the career of one of the leading librarians of that generation whose active service falls chiefly within the first thirty-three years of the century. The writer is convinced that he voices the sentiments of a host, also of American librarians, when he wishes this noted colleague many peaceful, pleasant and profitable years of retirement, or rather semi-retirement from the many heavy duties and responsibilities which he carried for so many years, and always with such eminent ability and distinction.

J. C. M. HANSON.

Living Authors, Book of Biographies

HERE, COLLECTED from the pages of the *Wilson Bulletin* and with much new material added, is a book designed to gladden the hearts of reference librarians in libraries of every size. It was members of the American library profession, in fact, who practically demanded the publication of the work, as the Preface truthfully points out.

Poets, novelists, dramatists, essayists, biographers, critics, writers of children's books, and those philosophers whose personalities seem definitely to have encroached upon the literary scene, have been considered eligible for inclusion. Thirteen countries besides the English-speaking are represented. Some four hundred writers in all are present, each allotted about a page of text and a portrait. The calendered paper used was probably necessary for the proper reproduction of the cuts, but has resulted in a rather appallingly heavy book. The contents, however, if more ponderable than air, are picturesque, informing, and unfailingly readable. The passages of

(Continued on page 800)

The October Forecast

A check list of books of general interest whose publication dates fall during the coming month

History, Travel, Biography, Literature

October 1

Bonnard, Abel. (Cleveland B. Chase. *Trans.*) ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.
A biography that brings out the poetry in St. Francis' life with great freshness. Longmans. $2.

Carre, Jean Marie. A SEASON IN HELL.
The life of Arthur Rimbaud who renounced his art of poetry and became an African trader. Macaulay. $3.

Cheiro. FATE IN THE MAKING.
The memoirs of a modern seer. Harper. $4.

Clemens, Clara. MY FATHER: MARK TWAIN.
Not a formal biography, but the story of a great personality as his family and friends knew him. Harper. $5.

Embree, Edwin R. BROWN AMERICA: THE STORY OF A NEW RACE.
The negro in America. Viking. $2.50.

Essad-Bey. TWELVE SECRETS OF THE CAUCASUS.
Story of a land shrouded in medieval darkness. Viking. $3.

Hill, Grave Livingston. *Ed.* MEMORIES OF YESTERDAY.
Autobiography of Isabella M. Alden (Pansy). Lippincott. $2.50.

Lucas, E. V. VISIBILITY GOOD.
Essays. Lippincott. $2.

Parker, Cornelia Stratton. ENGLISH SUMMER.
Experiences of the author and her fourteen-year-old daughter on a three months' motor tour through England, Wales, and Scotland. Live-right. $3.50

Reese, Lizette Woodworth. THE YORK ROAD.
Stories and reminiscences of the old York Road of her youth. Farrar. $3

Thomas, Jean. DEVIL'S DITTIES.
Portrait of Kentucky Mountain Minstrels. Hatfield. $2.50

Toth, Karl. WOMAN AND ROCOCO IN FRANCE.
Eighteenth century France. Lippincott. $7.50

October 2

ALL TRUE: The Story of Actual Adventures Which Have Happened to Ten Women of Today.
Contributions by Delia Akeley, Amelia Earhart, Rosita Forbes, Dr. Margaret Mead, etc. Brewer. $5.

Baker, George P. JUSTINIAN, THE DEMON EMPEROR.
One of the greatest names in the history of Roman law. Dodd. $3.50

Baldwin, Charles C. STANFORD WHITE.
Biography of an exciting personality. Dodd. $3.50

Barnes, James A. JOHN G. CARLISLE: FINANCIER.
The story of national finance in the administration of Cleveland and Harrison. Dodd. $5.

Bergin, Thomas Goddard. GIOVANNI VERGA.
A biography of the Italian novelist who was an exponent of realism. Yale Univ. $2

Desmond, Alice Curtis. FAR HORIZONS.
Round-the-world sketches. McBride. $3.

Hashagen, Ernst. U-BOATS WESTWARD!
Adventures of the Commander of the U-62 during the World War. Putnam. $3.50.

Mackall, Lawton. PORTUGAL FOR TWO.
Travel experiences. Dodd. $3.50

Schauffler, Robert Haven. *Ed.* A MANTHOLOGY.
Anthology of poetry about camping, fighting by land and sea, pioneering, sport in more adventurous forms, etc. Dodd. $2.50

Soltau, Roger. FRENCH POLITICAL THOUGHT IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.
The trend of political ideas in France from the Napoleonic Wars to the World War. Yale Univ. $5.

Spiller, Robert E. FENIMORE COOPER: CRITIC OF HIS TIMES.
A study of America in adolescence. Minton. $3.50

Tate, Allen. ROBERT E. LEE.
Biography of the great Southerner written by a Southerner. Minton. $5.

Verrill, A. Hyatt. JAMAICA OF TODAY.
Detailed information; where to go and how to get there. Dodd. $2.50

Wilson, R. McNair. MADAME DE STAEL: HIGH PRIESTESS OF LOVE.
Biography of one woman who was a decisive factor in the ruin of Napoleon. McBride. $4.

October 5-7

Carr, E. H. THE LIFE OF DOSTOEVSKY.
Life of the famous Russian author. Houghton. $3.50

D'Aquila, Vincenza. BODYGUARD UNSEEN.
Autobiography of an American who embarked from New York as a volunteer for service in the high Alps with the Italian army. Smith. $2.50

Falk, Edwin. FIGHTING BOB EVANS.
Biography of the late Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, United States Navy (1846-1912). Cape. $5.

Fletcher, Jefferson Butler, *Trans.* THE DIVINE COMEDY OF DANTE ALIGHIERI.
The new translation gives much of the beauty of form and vigor of expression of the original. Macmillan. $5.

Hayward, DuBose. JASBO BROWN AND SELECTED POEMS.
"Jasbo Brown" is a long narrative poem. Farrar. $2.

Oberholtzer, Ellis Paxson. A HISTORY OF

The United States Since The Civil War. Vol. IV. 1878-1888.
One more volume is to come to complete this large work. Macmillan. $6.

Wilstach, Paul. Tidewater Maryland.
Its history, traditions, romantic mansions, and famous fighters. Bobbs. $5.

October 8-9

Barthou, Louis. Wagner, The Prodigious Lover.
Aspects in the emotional life of Richard Wagner. Duffield. $2.50

Bryant, W. M. King Charles The Second.
An informal biography. Longmans. $3.50

Fowler, Gene. The Great Mouthpiece.
A life story of William J. Fallon. Covici-Friede. $3.

Paradise, N. Burton. Thomas Lodge.
A scholarly biography of the man who was "the product and epitome of the Elizabethan Age." Yale Univ. $3.

Rheinhardt, E. A. Napoleon And Eugénie.
Biography translated from the German by Hannah Waller. Knopf. $3.50

Richards, Laura E. Stepping Westward.
Amusing anecdotes and delightful portraits. Appleton. $3.

Slocombe, George. The White-Plumed Henry.
Henry of Navarre, first of the Bourbon kings of France. Cosmopolitan. $5.

Walton, Eda Lou. Jane Matthew And Other Poems.
Two long narrative poems and a group of lyrics by the author of *Dawn Boy*. Brewer. $2.

October 11-14

Bekker, Paul. Richard Wagner.
Biography told in relation to the operas. Norton. $5.

Carr, Harry. Old Mother Mexico.
Harry Carr of the *Los Angeles Times* tells of his journeys through this country. Houghton. $3.

Chambers, Walter. Samuel Seabury, American Jurist.
Biography of the special investigator of the government of New York City. Century. $3.50

Hart, Francis R. The Siege Of Havana, 1762.
An authoritative account by the author of *Admirals of the Caribbean*. Houghton. $4.

Ponafidine, Emma C. Russia—My Home.
Experiences before, during, and after the Bolshevist revolution. Bobbs. $3.50

Powell, E. Alexander. Marches Of The North.
A new picture of Canada. Farrar. $2.

Repplier, Agnes. Times And Tendencies.
New essays. Houghton. $2.

October 15-16

Aiken, Conrad. Preludes.
Poems. Scribner. $2.50

Allen, Frederick Lewis. Only Yesterday.
From the Armistice in November 1918, to the panic and depression of 1929-1930. Harper. $3.75

Belloc, Hilaire. Cranmer, Archbishop Of Canterbury, 1533-1556.
This is the third of Belloc's biographies of the great clerical figures of the Reformation. Lippincott. $5.

Byles, Marie B. By Cargo Boat And Mountain.
Author tells of the mountains she has climbed and the adventures she has had on cargo boats. Lippincott. $5.

Churchill, Winston S. The Unknown War.
Story of the World War on the Eastern front. Scribner. $5.

Endore, Guy. The Sword Of God.
Biography of Jeanne D'Arc. Farrar. $3.50

Gould, Lawrence McKinley. Cold.
The record of a fifteen hundred mile sledge journey in the Antarctic. Brewer. $3.50

Hathaway, Esse V. The Book Of American Presidents.
From Washington to Hoover. Whittlesey. $2.50

Leiding, Harriette K. Charleston: Historic And Romantic.
A history of the town in Colonial and Revolutionary days, the major part it played during the Civil War, and its gradual acceptance of modern "Yankee" ideas. Lippincott. $3.50

Lodge, Sir Oliver. Past Years.
An autobiography. Scribner. $5.

Long, Ray. One Unprejudiced View Of Russia.
Not for the expert, but for the average American. Smith. $1.50.

Miller, Barnette. Beyond The Sublime Ports.
Historical sketch of the Grand Seraglio of Stamboul. Yale Univ. $5.

Robinson, Selma. City Child.
Poetry. Farrar. $2.

Simonds, Frank H. They Won The War.
A concise review of world war history. Harper. $1.

Todd, Mabel Loomis. Letters Of Emily Dickinson.
New and enlarged edition. Harper. $4.

October 20-23

Bowden, Robert D. In Defense Of Tomorrow.
A defense and an interpretation of the Machine Age. Macmillan. $2.

Doud, Margery and Parsley, Cleo M. Father.
An anthology of verse. Dutton. $2.50

Golovine, Nicholas N. The Russian Army In The World War.
How the demands of the front had to be met and how the fortunes of war affected the psychology of the conscription armies. Yale Univ. $3.25.

Hulbert, Archer Butler. Forty-Niners.
A complete chronicle of what happened to those thousands of men and women who toiled through the dust and misery of the Overland Trail. Little. $3.50

McAdoo, William Gibbs. Crowded Years.
Covering many national events still fresh in our memories and an important addition to America's personal histories of the World War. Houghton. $5.

MacCrindle, A. M. Ice In Egypt.
The story of Mahmoud, the iceman. Morrow. $2.

March, Harold. FRÉDÉRIC SOULIÉ.
Life and works of a novelist and dramatist who was a striking literary figure in France during the first half of the nineteenth century. Yale Univ. $3.

Masefield, John. MINNIE MAYLOW'S STORY AND OTHER TALES AND SCENES.
Limited autographed edition. Macmillan. $25.

Neilson, William A. and Thorndike, Ashley H. THE FACTS ABOUT SHAKESPEARE.
New and revised edition. Macmillan.

Recouly, Raymond. JOFFRE.
By the author of *Foch: My Conversations With the Marshall.* Appleton. $3.

Restarick, Henry B. SUN YAT SEN.
A true and fascinating account of the strange career of the Liberator of China. Yale Univ. $2.50

Schuyler, George. SLAVES TODAY.
The story of Liberia, the black republic conceived as a refuge for negroes by a Negro. Brewer. $2.50

Stewart, George R., Jr. BRET HART: ARGONAUT AND EXILE.
Fresh material makes up this life of America's most paradoxical writer. Houghton. $5.

Stomberg, A. A. HISTORY OF SWEDEN.
A fascinating phase of European history on which little has heretofore been available. Macmillan. $8.50

Walden, Arthur T. LEADING A DOG'S LIFE.
Adventures of a dog and his master in Alaska and in New Hampshire. Houghton. $2.50

Wingfield-Stratford, Esmé. THEY THAT TAKE THE SWORD.
War can be averted and this book contains not only a warning, but points a way of escape. Morrow. $4.

Wortham, H. E. EDWARD VII, MAN AND KING.
An account of Kingship in a Democracy. Little. $4.

Young, George. THE PENDULUM OF PROGRESS.
A study of post-war changes in Great Britain, the United States, Germany, Italy, and Turkey. Yale Univ. $3.

October 28-30

Faÿ, Bernard. GEORGE WASHINGTON: REPUBLICAN ARISTOCRAT.
A new biography by the author of *Benjamin Franklin.* Houghton. $4.

Howland, Charles P. SURVEY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS, 1931.
Fourth volume in this annual survey deals with Mexican-American affairs, the Limitation of Armaments, and the Bank for International Settlements. Yale Univ. $5.

Nickerson, W. Sears. LAND HO! 1620.
A maritime history of the voyage of the Mayflower. Houghton. $5.

Robertson, W. Graham. LIFE WAS WORTH LIVING—THEN.
Reminiscences of the grand days of the late Victorian era. Harper. $4.

Tomlinson, H. M. NORMAN DOUGLAS.
The life of a sincere and saddened philosopher. Harper. $2.50

During October

Andrews, C. F. *Ed.* GANDHI AT WORK.
More of his own story. Macmillan. $2.50

Cochran, M. H. GERMANY NOT GUILTY IN 1914.
A detailed analysis of the much discussed *Coming Of The War, 1914* by Professor Bernadotte E. Schmitt. Stratford. $2.

Davis, Emily C. ANCIENT AMERICANS.
The whole ancient story of North and South America. Holt. $3.50

Josephson, Matthew. JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU.
The story of the most direct precursor of the French Revolution, the boldest enemy of the old régime. Harcourt. $5.

Jung, C. G. and Wilhelm, Richard. THE SECRET OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER.
Translated from an ancient Chinese manuscript. Harcourt. $3.75

MacNair, Harley F. CHINA IN REVOLUTION.
Military and political events and personages in China during the past generation. Univ. Chicago. $2.50

Moult, Thomas. *Ed.* BEST POEMS OF 1931.
The tenth year of Mr. Moult's annual collection of best poems appearing in English and American periodicals. Harcourt. $2.50

Nowlin, William F. THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN NATIONAL POLITICS SINCE 1868.
Contests for seats in Congress, Negro political leaders, and the attitude of a few presidents in regard to federal aid for education of Negroes. Stratford. $2.

Pinkerton, Robert E. HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.
The first popular account of the "Company of Gentlemen Adventurers trading into Hudson's Bay" to be written in twenty-five years. Holt. $3.50

Pringle, Henry F. THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
Mr. Pringle is first biographer to have access to over 75,000 personal and official letters of Roosevelt from the years 1889-1909. Harcourt. $5.

St. John, Christopher. *Ed.* ELLEN TERRY AND BERNARD SHAW.
An intimate correspondence. Putnam's. $5.

Silex, Karl. JOHN BULL AT HOME.
A detailed picture of the Englishman in daily life. Harcourt. $2.50.

Thomas, Lowell. ROLLING STONE.
Life and adventures of Arthur Radclyffe Dugmore. Doubleday. $2.50

Miscellaneous Non-Fiction

October 1-2

Calverton, V. F. and Schmalhausen, Samuel D. WOMAN'S COMING OF AGE.
A history of woman. Liveright. $5.

Clark, Sydney A. CATHEDRAL FRANCE.
Personal, human side of the cathedrals, cathedral builders, and towns which sprang up about them. McBride. $3.50

Ehrenfeld, Louis. THE STORY OF COMMON THINGS.
Story of chemistry told in simple language. Dodd. $3.50.

Levine, Isaac Don. RED SMOKE.
Conditions in Soviet Russia under the Five Year Plan. McBride. $3.50

Ripley, Katharine Ball. SAND IN MY SHOES.
The story of seven years of professional peach growing at Samarcand, N. C. Brewer. $3.

Ross, Ishbel. THROUGH THE LICH-GATE.
A biography of the Little Church Around the Corner. Payson. $7.50.

Rose, William. AN OUTLINE OF MODERN THOUGHT.
Twenty-four foremost authorities in their respective fields have contributed to this volume. Putnam. $5.

Smith, Harry B. FIRST NIGHTS AND FIRST EDITIONS.
Author tells the story of his three hundred comedies and operettas and of his adventures as a collector of books and autographs. Little. $3.50

Williams, Henry Smith. THE BIOGRAPHY OF MOTHER EARTH.
Accounts of interesting features of the earth's physical development. McBride. $5.

Wuorinen, John H. PROHIBITION EXPERIMENT IN FINLAND.
Impartial and searching account. Univ. Columbia. $3.50

October 5-7

Auld, William Muir. CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS.
A complete account of the story of Christmas. Macmillan. $1.75

Foster, Allyn K. THE NEW DIMENSIONS OF RELIGION.
A cosmology that can sustain religious faith without doing violence to the modern views of physics and biology. Macmillan. $2.25

Hanau, Stella and Deutsch, Helen. THE PROVINCETOWN.
History of the famous Provincetown Playhouse from its inception in 1915 to its close in 1929. Farrar. $3.

Normano, J. F. THE STRUGGLE FOR SOUTH AMERICA.
A book on the present political and economic struggle for trade supremacy in South America particularly between United States, Great Britain and Germany. Houghton. $4.

Rogers, James Harvey. AMERICA WEIGHS HER GOLD.
An analysis of the present extraordinary maldistribution of gold with its attendant evils. Yale Univ. $2.50

Thorndike, Ashley H. THE OUTLOOK FOR LITERATURE.
Examines some of the characteristics of the literature of today and speculates on the nature of the literature of tomorrow. Macmillan. $2.

Wead, Frank. WINGS FOR MEN.
History of man's conquest of the air from the beginning. Century. $4.

October 8-13

Burke, Jane Revere. LET US IN.
A philosophy of economic and political salvation. Dutton. $2.

Collins, Joseph. THE DOCTOR LOOKS AT LIFE AND DEATH.
Final book in the "Doctor Looks—" series. Farrar. $3.

Lawrence, D. H. APOCALYPSE.
Essays on the Book of Revelation. Harcourt. $5.

Mitchell, Jonathan. GOOSE STEPS TO PEACE.
An estimate by a reporter of what are the forces making for war and for peace and what action is needed. Little. $3.

October 15

Fairbairn, W. E. SCIENTIFIC SELF-DEFENSE.
The superintendent of the Shanghai mounted police explains the various methods of self-defense. Appleton. $3.50

Grey, Zane. TALES OF TAHITIAN WATERS.
Fish of the South Seas which are the fiercest in the world. Harper. $7.50

Huxley, Julian S. WHAT DARE I THINK?
The challenge of modern science to human action and belief. Harper. $2.50

Laird, Donald. WHY WE DON'T LIKE PEOPLE.
Handbook of personal psychology. Mohawk. $2.

Moore, E. D. IVORY: SCOURGE OF AFRICA.
The exciting story of the bloody trade in what has been called elephants teeth, white gold, and the scourge of Africa. Harper. $4.

Stevens, Thomas Wood. THE THEATRE: FROM ATHENS TO BROADWAY.
Complete but condensed outline of the history of the theatre. Appleton. $2.50

October 20-21

Daglish, Eric F. THE LIFE STORY OF BEASTS.
The courtship of beasts, beasts as parents, beasts as hunters and as hunted. Morrow. $3.

Givry, Grillot de. WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC AND ALCHEMY.
A history of magic. Houghton. $10.

Graf, Arthuro. (Edward N. Stone. *Trans.*) THE STORY OF THE DEVIL.
The idea of the Devil, its origin, growth, and manifestations from the beginning of the Christian era to the present. Macmillan. $3.

Lincoln, Virginia C. and Smith, Bertha W. THE WRITING ART.
Its methods, pitfalls, and rewards. Houghton. $2.50

Ramus, Carl. BEHIND THE SCENES WITH OURSELVES.
Free-lance study of everyday psychology. Century. $3.

October 28-30

Brill, Alice and Youtz, May. YOUR CHILD AND HIS PARENTS.
A textbook for child study groups. Appleton. $2.50

Burnham, William H. THE WHOLESOME PERSONALITY.
The normal personality, its development, and conditions which favor this. Appleton. $3.50

Lyttelton, Edith. OUR SUPERCONSCIOUS MIND.
The author shows that the human mind possesses capabilities beyond its consciousness. Appleton. $2.50

Merejkowski, Dmitri. THE SECRET OF THE WEST.

A treatise on western civilization treated from the point of view of a religious philosopher. Brewer. $7.50

Southard, Frank A., Jr. AMERICAN INDUSTRY IN EUROPE.
A Hart Schaffner and Marx Prize essay in economics. Houghton. $3.

During October

Burke, Kenneth. COUNTER-STATEMENT.
A reasoned and penetrating philosophy of criticism in America. Harcourt. $2.50

Chave, Ernest J. SUPERVISION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.
The first book to apply the principles of supervision to the general field of religious education. Univ. Chicago. $2.50

Drinkwater, John. INHERITANCE.
An account of the yeoman life of English publicans, farmers, coachmen and coachmasters of the eighteenth century. Holt. $3.

Tyson, Levering. *Ed.* RADIO AND EDUCATION.
A report of the first annual assembly of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education. Univ. Chicago. $3.50

Selected Fiction

October 1-2

Colby, Merle. ALL YE PEOPLE.
A pageant-like story of the western migration of the early 1800's. Viking. $2.50

Delafield, E. M. DIARY OF A PROVINCIAL LADY.
The provincial lady records her English village life. Harper. $2.50

Johnston, Mary. HUNTING SHIRT.
background of the pioneer and early settler. Little. $2.50

Lewisohn, Ludwig. THE GOLDEN VASE.
A novel of Indian Summer. Harper. $2.

Sidgwick, Ethel. A TALE OF TWO VILLAGES.
The interweaving of lives in two rival communities. Harper. $2.50

October 7-11

LaFarge, John. SPARKS FLY UPWARD.
A novel of revolution in Central America. Houghton. $2.50

Marshall, Archibald. THE APPLETONS OF HERNE: A FAMILY CHRONICLE.
This family history carried on through three generations. Dodd. $2.50

Milne, A. A. TWO PEOPLE.
First serious novel of this author. Dutton. $2.50

Walpole, Hugh. JUDITH PARIS.
Story of a woman who bent being to her will . . . the second of four novels each to be complete, yet inter-dependent. Doubleday. $2.50

October 14-15

Elam, Samuel Milton. WATCH THE STARS IMMORTAL.
On the surface this is the story of a John Harmon's search for the poetry of life; in reality it is a satirical commentary upon almost every phase of our national life. Harper. $2.50

Ferber, Edna. AMERICAN BEAUTY.
A contrast between the old and the new New England. Doubleday. $2.50

Grant, Robert. THE DARK HORSE.
Further study of the New England social scene, as begun in *The Chippendales*. Houghton. $2.50

Rölvaag, O. E. THEIR FATHER'S GOD.
The author of *Giants in the Earth* now portrays the problems of readjustment which face the second generation. Harper. $2.50

Woolf, Virginia. THE WAVES.
By the author of *Mrs. Dalloway*. Harcourt. $2.50

October 22-28

Bennett, Arnold: THE NIGHT VISITOR.
Short stories. Doubleday. $2.50

Manning-Sanders, Ruth. THE GROWING TREES.
The story of an imaginative boy and his mother by the author of *The Crochet Woman*.

Young, Francis Brett. THE MARRIAGE OF SUSAN LORIMER.
What circumstances can do to a charming young girl. Harper. $2.50

During October

Willis, Elizabeth. LESBY.
Romance of the Canadian farm-lands. Scribner. $2.

Book Club Selections

Book League of America

THE LADY WHO CAME TO STAY. By R. E. Spencer. *Knopf.*
Said to be the best ghost story since Henry James' *Turn of a Screw*.

Book-Of-The-Month

THE EPIC OF AMERICA. By James Truslow Adams. *Little.*
The brilliant and exciting story of America from the dateless period when savages roamed the continent to its present realization in a people of 120,000,000 composed of all the races of the world.

Junior Literary Guild

THE PICTURE BOOK OF ANIMALS (Primary Group). By Isabel Ely Lord. *Macmillan.*

OUT OF THE FLAME (Intermediate Group). By Eloise Lownsbery. *Longmans.*

JOAN MANNING-SAUNDERS, A YOUNG ARTIST (Older Girls). *Rudge.*

HEROES OF CIVILIZATION (Older Boys). By Haym Jaffe and Joseph Cottler. *Little.*

Literary Guild Of America

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF LINCOLN STEFFENS. *Harcourt.*

Religious Book Club

PATHWAYS TO THE REALITY OF GOD. By Rufus M. Jones. *Macmillan.*

Scientific Book Club

THE INSECT MENACE. By L. O. Howard. *Century.*

Library Organizations

American Country Life Conference

THE LIBRARY'S PART in rural interests was definitely in evidence at the American Country Life Conference at Cornell from August 17-20. Prominent tables in the Lounge of Willard Straight Hall held the center of interest with literature and rural government material selected by the University Department Library on Farm Management. Dr. Sanderson's Rural Social Organization exhibit featured diagrams showing the relation of the presence of libraries in towns to the trading centers in rural communities.

Allen County's, Indiana, service map held the conspicuous place in an A.L.A. Library Extension Exhibit adjacent to New York Library Extension Divisions's parade of miniature scenes in county library service. These two exhibits occupied the advantageous locations in the Lounge and the literature on books and book service offered for distribution was eagerly sought by the Conference visitors. The Tompkins County (N.Y.) Library book truck was parked in front of the headquarters building and attracted many visitors. Some actually drove into the County with it to see it functioning. Libraries in rural areas were repeatedly referred to in speeches of the Conference although no set discussion of libraries was placed on the program.

University of Iowa Library Conference

THE TWELFTH Annual Conference for Library Workers held under the joint auspices of the University of Iowa Summer Library School and the Extension Division of the University occurred on July 10th and 11th. Over one hundred were in attendance, including the students in the Library School, about fifty visitors from the state, local librarians, and others.

A very interesting program was presented at the two sessions. The general subject of the Conference was "The Stimulation of Reading and of the Use of Books in General," this being discussed under the three heads: "The Reading of Children"; "The Reading of Students"; and "The Reading of Adults." Addresses on the reading of children were made by Mrs. Alfred H. P. Sayers of Chicago and Miss Letha M. Davidson, Librarian, Public Library, Ames, Iowa. Mrs. Sayers, formerly of the Children's Department of the New York Public Library, more recently a member of the A.L.A. Headquarters Staff, spoke on "The Imaginative Approach to Children's Reading." Miss Davidson described her experiences in "Guiding the Children's Summer Reading." The two addresses on the reading of students were made by Mr. Nathan van Patten, Director of Libraries of Stanford University, and Mr. Milton E. Lord, Director of Libraries, University of Iowa. Mr. van Patten discussed "Some Experiments in the Stimulation of Student Reading," and Mr. Lord described the new Students' Library to be established at Iowa this fall.

At the second session, given over to the discussion of the reading of adults, Professor Douglas Waples of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago spoke on the topic "Can People Read What They Like?" and Miss Georgie G. McAfee, Librarian of the Public Library of Lima, Ohio, on "Methods of Making the Community Library-Conscious." Professor Ernest Horn and Professor E. P. Kuhl, both of the University of Iowa, shared with the audience their experiences in "The Buying of Books for Personal Reading."

Florida Sponsors County Bill

THE FLORIDA LIBRARY Association held its annual meeting March 18 and 19 at Gainesville. Miss Helen V. Stelle of Tampa Public Library was president. Fifty-two members were present. The topic for the morning session was "Cooperation in Library Work." The main speaker of the morning was Dr. John J. Tigert, President of the University of Florida. He gave an informal talk on the co-relation of the library movement and the educational movement and the early impetus given the movements by the first Commissioners of Education. The afternoon session was given over to a comprehensive discussion of "Books of 1930." Various departmental librarians of libraries in the state spoke on the books in their own libraries.

During the day, the members of the Association had an insight into University life. They ate luncheon at the University Cafeteria, made a tour of the campus, stopped at the State Radio Station to investigate its intri-

cacies and viewed a Military Parade staged in their honor. The banquet at night was made outstanding by talks given by Miss Tommie Dora Barker, Southern Regional Field Agent, on "Re-thinking the Library," and by Miss Jessie Van Cleve of the American Library Association on "Library Service for Children."

The Association is sponsoring a bill for the establishment of county libraries in the state. As this bill is to be presented to the legislature at this session, the entire morning, Thursday, was devoted to its discussion, and minor improvements were made. The group divided into three sections for luncheon; a college reference section, a public library section, and a high school group. The final session covered the subject of library training in the state. Representatives of the two schools discussed their programs and aims.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Miss Louise Richardson, Tallahassee; First Vice-President, Miss Genevra Brock, Tampa; Second Vice-President, Mr. E. L. Robinson, Tampa; Secretary, Miss Mildred Edwards, Jacksonville; Treasurer, Mrs. Claudine J. Wallace, Orlando.

Rhode Island Library Association

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH annual meeting of the Rhode Island Library Association was held June 5, in the Old City Hall, in Newport, the president, Mrs. Sara E. Sherman, presiding. At the business session an important resolution concerning the mutilation of books was adopted as follows:

RESOLVED, That the Rhode Island Library Association respectfully urges the school authorities in the various cities and towns to so modify the project method that undue temptation is not placed in the way of children, and to encourage such courses and lectures in the public schools as will tend to instill in the minds of the youth of today a proper regard for public property and for printed material owned by others; and be it further Resolved, That a committee of three persons shall be chosen by the president to confer with the State board of education and such other school authorities as it may deem advisable.

At the close of the business session, Mr. Harford Powel, popular novelist of Boston and Newport, extended a hearty welcome to Newport, sketching by means of delightful anecdote, the early literary history of that quaint and charming old city. Mrs. Maud Howe Elliott, who has been called "the distinguished daughter of an immortal mother," author of *Three Generations, Life and Letters of Julia Ward Howe, John Elliott, Artist*, and many other widely read books, drew generously from her wealth of experiences and life-long associations with the art world, concentrating especially on the subject, "Some American Artists I Have Known." Dr. Charles Obermeyer, prominent lecturer and psychologist of London and New York, gave a provocative and stimulating address on the subject, "Twentieth Century Aims and Ideals." Miss Sarah B. Askew, Librarian and Secretary of the New Jersey State Library Commission, talked in her usual delightful and inimitable manner, about "The Work of a State Library Commission."

The following officers for 1931-32 were elected: President, Dr. Henry B. Van Hoesen, Brown University Library; First Vice-President, Mr. Laurence M. Shaw, Providence Public Library; Second Vice-President, Miss Ruth E. Greene, Commercial High School, Providence; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Gray Watts, John Carter Brown Library; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Dorothy Bell, Business Branch Library, Providence; Treasurer, Miss Gertrude E. Brown, Providence Public Library; Executive Committee, Mrs. Sara E. Sherman, Elmwood Public Library, Providence; Miss May V. Crenshaw, People's Library, Newport; Miss Grace H. Hall, Harris Institute Library, Woonsocket.

The Catholic Library Association

AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association, held in Philadelphia, June 22-25, 1931, a new organization to be known as the Catholic Library Association was formed. Since the year 1923, the librarians of the Catholic colleges, academies and high schools had been functioning as a section of the College Department of the N. C. E. A. The expanding program of this Library Section, the work already in hand and the new projects to be undertaken, made it advisable to ask separation from the N. C. E. A., in order that the work of the Catholic libraries might be more definitely and efficiently carried on. This request was graciously acted upon at the closing meeting of the N. C. E. A. on Thursday, June 25, and on that day the Catholic Library Association began to function.

All persons interested in the purposes of the Catholic Library Association are eligible for membership. The annual dues for institutional membership are five dollars a year, and for individual membership, two dollars.

Maine Annual State Meeting

THE ANNUAL meeting of the Maine Library Association was held at Kittery and Eliot September 2-4. At Kittery, Wednesday evening, there was a banquet. Louis T. Ibbotson presided as toastmaster. Alexander Dennett, President of the Board of Directors, Rice Public Library, Kittery, welcomed the members and guests and gave a brief history of Kittery. May Lamberton Becker spoke on "The American Scene" with a characterization of some of the new books in this country and some of those coming to our shores from England. The forenoon session Thursday was held in Eliot. William Falconer, President of the Board of Directors, William Fogg Library, related interesting facts concerning the historical places the members were to visit in the afternoon. President Ibbotson gave an address on the plans and objectives of the Association. Under the subject "The Librarian Goes to School," Edith N. Snow, Portland Public Library, explained the one-week institutes held for the training of librarians. "The Library and International Relations" was presented from two points of view. Mr. J. S. Ibbotson of Colby College Library, spoke of the International Clubs in colleges and the assistance college librarians might render them. Georgiana Lunt of the Auburn Public Library, spoke of the value of the International Mind Alcove in public libraries. Public Documents were discussed by Rebecca Friedman, of the Maine State Library. Alice M. Wetherell, children's librarian, Bangor Public Library, presided over the Round Table, the topic of which was "Methods of Bringing Books and Children Together." After the discussion Miss Wetherell spoke on "Some Interesting Books for Boys and Girls."

At the evening session in Kittery, Theresa M. Stuart of the Maine State Library presided. She introduced two authors: Mary Ellen Chase, who addressed the conference on the subject "The Literary Background of Maine," and Eric Kelly, who spoke on *The Trumpeter* and *The Blacksmith*.

On Friday morning "Our Bookmobile" was present and the plans for it were explained by Elizabeth Libby and Bertha Davis of the Maine State Library. "Book Selection" was the next topic on the program. Annie L. Barr of the Lewiston Public Library presided. She introduced Charles E. Campbell of Portland, who distributed lists and gave "A Forecast of the New Fall Books." At the business meeting the revised constitution was adopted and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. Marion Brainerd Stubbs, Lithgow Public Library, Augusta; Vice-President, Mrs. Beulah Akeley, Free Library, Presque Isle; Secretary, Georgiana Lunt, Public Library, Auburn; Treasurer, Annie L. Barr, Public Library, Lewiston.

Living Authors

(Continued from page 801)

personal description are often more illuminating than the actual portraits.

Lack of photographs or sufficient biographical data is the reason given for the omission of certain authors, while the editorial policy of making room for young and promising writers has excluded some others. The index fails to disclose the presence, for instance, of Lady Gregory, "Elizabeth," Ethel Sidgwick, or Harry Leon Wilson. Robert Benchley, Heywood Broun, and Robert Sherwood are not included; Ring Lardner, Dorothy Parker and Samuel Hoffenstein are. The book is made up of authors alive on the first of January, 1931. Mrs. L. Adams Beck ("E. Barrington") died on the third of January, but the editor sensibly did not exclude her on that account. The second casualty in the B's, Arnold Bennett, occurred while the book was in press.

Inevitably, there are a certain number of errors, but these are negligible. Some sketchy proof-reading is discernible in the Barrie and Noel Coward biographies, and such occasional slips occur as Alfred Percival Graves for Alfred Perceval Graves, Edward Verral Lucas for Edward Verrall Lucas, Percy Mackaye for Percy MacKaye, Eugenspiegel for Eulenspiegel, Lincoln Steffins for Lincoln Steffens, and Peter Finley Dunne for Finley Peter Dunne. Stephen Vincent Benét has written four novels, not three, but it is possible that he prefers to disown *Young People's Pride*. The title of Dorothy Canfield's book is *Home Fires in France*, not *of France*. Anne Parrish's sister-in-law is Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont, but Mr. Lamont is a banker, not the Secretary of Commerce, as is stated in the book. The present Secretary is Robert P. Lamont. And Sidney Howard's series of articles for the *New Republic*, *The Labor Spy*, is certainly not a play.

EARLE F. WALBRIDGE.

Living Authors: a Book of Biographies. Edited by Dilly Tante and Illustrated with 371 photographs and drawings. New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1931. cl. 466p. $5; library ed. $3.75.

The Open Round Table

Paterson, New Jersey Facts Presented

IN YOUR ISSUE of September 1st, the trustees of the Free Public Library of Paterson, N. J., have read with indignation your untrue statements regarding the retirement of former Librarian, George F. Winchester.

Here are the real facts. In spite of the circumstances that the New Jersey State law for librarians' pensions does not apply to the City of Paterson, the Board of Trustees of our library has managed to retire Mr. Winchester, incapacitated by illness due to old age, on half pay, for which we believe he is deeply grateful. He can now enjoy the fruits of his many years of service in the peace and contentment of his home.

Mrs. Winchester's employment as head of the Exhibits Department, was merely a temporary matter, which that lady clearly understood was to end at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

We respectfully ask you to publish our letter in your next issue, and remain,

RALPH P. ROSS,
President, The Board of Trustees of the Paterson Free Public Library.

I HAD NOT SEEN the editorial in your issue of September 1, referring to my retirement from the Librarianship of the Paterson Public Library, until I received your letter.

It is true as stated in Mr. Ross's letter that I am receiving a half-salary pension.

In mid-winter I had a severe attack of grippe, from which I recuperated sufficiently to take general charge of the library for a few hours daily, but gained new strength slowly.

It was decided by the Board of Trustees—at my suggestion—to search for a young man of thorough education and training and with experience, who might be willing to take the position of assistant for a year or more, when I would have finished the work I wished to do and when I would voluntarily retire, on pension, and the assistant would take my place.

This was the situation, when about the first of May, I was notified that a meeting had been held where it was decided by the Board that my retirement must take effect July first. I requested the date of retirement be made October 1, (a matter of three months) thus allowing me to fill out my forty-third year as Librarian.

THIS WAS REFUSED BY THE TRUSTEES.

Under the circumstances the statement made by Mr. Ross that I am "deeply grateful" savors of exaggeration!

The statement made by Mr. Ross concerning Mrs. Winchester's retirement is incorrect. The Trustees voted that the position of Director of Art and Exhibitions should be made a permanent one and filled by a competitive Civil Service examination. Mrs. Winchester passed at the head of the list and was appointed. The position was abolished in spite of vigorous public protest.

GEORGE F. WINCHESTER.

One Book Two Titles

IN YOUR SEPTEMBER forecast of new books, you list under September 2, Philip Gibbs's *The Reckless Duke*, published by Harper. We find that this book was first published by Putnam in 1908 under the title of *The Romance of George Villiers, First Duke of Buckingham.*

On the reverse of the title page, *The Reckless Duke* has "First edition" and in the Supplementary Note of two pages not found in the older edition no mention is made of the 1908 publication. At the end of Mr. Gibbs's Foreword in the earlier edition, we find "November 1907" but this is, of course, omitted in *The Reckless Duke.* Illustrations have been altered to some extent and reduced from 20 to 15. Otherwise we could find no changes in text or index. 'Nuf said.

JULIUS LUCHT,
Librarian, Newton, Mass.

Personal Element Is Essential

MAY A MERE library trustee have, nay more, express an opinion anent the question of a "library hostess"?

Not only have I made it a point whenever possible to visit public libraries about the United States, and to talk to librarians, but also casually to seek the aid of reference and circulation assistants.

Frequently I have been impressed with the business-like efficiency of the service rendered but also how often, too, have I been chilled with the impersonality of attitude and the utter lack of imagination manifested.

The development of proficiency in library technique is an objective for which no library

school can possibly be criticized. Yet surely this alone cannot be all sufficient.

It is a recognized fact that in times of unemployment and social stress people in increasing numbers turn to the public libraries. It is significant that labor leaders are usually numbered among the warmest adherents of such institutions.

Books may be didactic. Some may be pornographic and debasing. But it is safe to say that the vast majority of books, regardless of their other qualities, are palliatives to a condition of mental distress and that their perusal is a happier solution for the passing of financially unproductive time than most modern jazz clang varieties of amusement.

Librarians are fond of placarding such delightful sentiments as:

> "There is no frigate like a book
> To take us lands away
> Nor any courser like a page
> Of prancing poetry."

but do they lead us up the gangplank, or hold our stirrup for us to mount?

It may be impractical in a public library to have

> "Some little luxury there
> Of red morocco's gilded gleam
> And vellum rich as country cream."

such as lends charm to many a private collection, but even in an imposing granite edifice, tax built to serve the multitude, it should be possible to install a "booky" atmosphere that will make the place inviting to the meek and hesitating, please the intellectuals and not necessarily offend the self-styled efficient, gold criterioned, successful components of the community.

Might there not even be opportunity for unobtrusive tactful suggestions which would tend to improve the quality of reading by the browser uncertain of his quest—even though, as some aver, the library should not attempt to compete with the church in the work of moral uplift.

Mere physical devices alone will not attain these ends. The personal element is essential. For practical purposes—public library budgets are usually carefully scanned by taxation experts—the use of the term "hostess" carries objections. It nevertheless embraces a much to be desired conception.

May a trustee hope that some well-trained library technician will climb a mountain, see a vision, and with both clarity and imagination guide us in making our public libraries hospitable as well as helpful.

EDWARD W. ALLEN,
Seattle, Washington.

Black Hawk County Demonstration Ends

THE BLACK HAWK county library demonstration ended September 1. We regret to report that the county board of supervisors refused to consider the levy for the county library next year. The reason given was that even to levy a three-quarter mill tax would add to the burdens of the agricultural districts in the county as all property in Waterloo and Cedar Falls would be exempt from the levy having city libraries of their own. Board members openly expressed their opinion that a county circulating library would be a good thing for the children in the rural districts.

We cannot help but feel that had the decision been left to the vote of the people, the tax would have been voted. Ninety-six stations used the 7,000 books purchased by the Iowa Library Association or donated. The book wagon made three weekly trips. As a result of the demonstration, Iowa is county library conscious, and with the return to normal times, we may hope to see results in many Iowa counties.

ALICE B. STORY,
Chairman of Publicity Committee.

University of Tennessee Granted Accreditation

AT A MEETING of the A.L.A. Board of Education for Librarianship during the New Haven conference, the University of Tennessee was granted full accreditation for the sixteen hour curriculum for training school librarians. The docket included discussion of training for negro librarians, distribution of the revision of certification requirements by states, and plans for courses at Johns Hopkins University and Nazareth College.

Large Per Capita Circulation

THE PRESIDENT of the Library Board of the Plattsmouth, Nebraska, Public Library announces an unusual circulation. During the month of March, 1931, the circulation in this Library was 4,350 books. This is more than one book for every man, woman, and child for the population of the town is less than 4,000. On the basis of their yearly circulation a circulation of 13½ books per capita is estimated.

In The Library World

Wisconsin Changes Library Law

IN COMPLIANCE with a 1931 change in the statutes, the Wisconsin State Bureau of Personnel is now placing 161 librarians in various state institutions under civil service. State librarians previously were in the unclassified service, for which examinations need not be taken, since positions are secured by appointment only. A change in the law by the 1931 legislature transferred librarians to the classified service. Librarians at the university, state teachers' college, state schools, and in the capitol are affected by the change.

"Death Sentence" Conditionally Suspended

A PLEA to librarians to help save the life of "Nathaniel Hawthorne and His Wife," Julian Hawthorne's biography of his parents, has resulted in temporary suspension of the "death sentence" imposed upon this book by its publishers, the Houghton Mifflin Company. The publishers, it is reported, had decided that the demand for this book was insufficient to warrant a reprinting and that it would be necessary to melt the plates to relieve pressure upon storage space. In response to interest which has already been evinced, Houghton Mifflin Company has agreed to reprint the biography, to be sold in the original two volumes for $5 if 270 orders are received from librarians by January 1, 1932.

Reorganization of Greek State Libraries

THE GREEK MINISTRY for Public Instruction and National Education has recently completed and brought forward a bill providing for a reorganization of the libraries owned by the State. According to the stipulations of the bill, a Supreme Council of the Greek State Libraries will be established which will consist of two university professors, one professor of the Athens Commercial Academy, two higher functionaries of the Education Ministry, the secretary of the Archaeological Society, and the chief librarians of the National Library and the Library of the House of Parliament. The chief purpose and duty of this Supreme Council will be the organization, specialization, and reformation of the Greek libraries on the principle of central management and the promotion of future development. The council will control all State libraries, provincial and town libraries, and those of the corporations, scientific societies and institutions, and of the Greek monasteries.

New Directory of New York City

THERE HAS recently been published a 1931 edition of the *Special Libraries Directory of the New York Metropolitan District.* It is the work of a committee of the local association headed by Rebecca B. Rankin, Chairman. The list of special libraries includes three hundred and twenty-five, each one fully described as to subject content, methods used, personnel employed, address, and for convenient daily use the telephone number is given. The Subject Index is of most use because it serves as a guide to the contents of all the special libraries and to any special collections therein. A Personnel Index containing the names of all persons, whether cataloger, order clerk or librarian and indicating if they are members of the New York Special Libraries Association is likewise of value. The Directory is classified roughly into Groups as financial, legal, technical, etc. and a title index answers any question if only the name of the Company is known. The Past Officers and a History of the New York Special Libraries Association add to the Directory from the standpoint of the members.

Anatomy of Bibliomania, Vol. II

THE FIRST CHAPTER in the second volume of the *Anatomy of Bibliomania,* published in September by Scribner's, deals with "Libraries And The Care of Books." Under this chapter the author has subdivisions on 1. The Praises of Libraries 2. Their Size and Extent 3. Bookmen and Their Little Libraries 4. On Choosing a Library For a Desert Island and 5. Libraries the Image of Oneself. In the two volumes of this book Mr. Jackson, by means of a multitude of references, quotations, examples, and instances, reveals the world of books in its historical, psychological, political, religious, scientific, and all other aspects, past and present.

Among Librarians

CORINNE BACON, Albany '06, will be the acting librarian of Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, from September to December, 1931.

VIRGINIA BICKLEY, Peabody, has been appointed reference librarian at Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn., to succeed Miss Isabel Howell.

WILMA BOISSELIER, Columbia '29, who has been the first assistant and head of circulation at the Englewood (N.J.) Public Library, became librarian of the High School of Commerce of the Portland (Oregon) Library Association in September.

NELLIE M. CAREY, librarian of the public library of Hastings, Nebraska, was elected secretary of the Nebraska Public Library Commission at a meeting held September 7.

NORMA B. CASS, Columbia '28, has been appointed librarian of the graduate division of the University of Kentucky Library, beginning September, 1931.

SISTER MARY CLAUDIA (Dorothy Carlen), Michigan '28, has been transferred from St. Mary's College, Monroe, Michigan, to Marygrove College, Detroit, Michigan, where she is now assistant librarian.

ISABELLA M. COOPER, Albany '08, formerly chief of the Order Department of the Queensboro Public Library, has become librarian of the McGraw-Hill Library in place of Pauline Petrie who has resigned because of ill health.

JOAN DOWNEY, Columbia '29, has a temporary cataloging position at D'Youville College, Buffalo, N. Y.

MRS. CATHERINE S. ELLER, Columbia '29, has been appointed senior cataloger in the Yale Law School Library.

ELLA M. ELLIOTT, Columbia '29, has accepted a position as assistant in the cataloging department of the Baker Library, Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

THELMA ERLANDSON, Columbia '29, has resigned from the cataloging staff of the Queens Borough Public Library to accept a position in the cataloging department of the New Jersey College for Women.

FLORENCE FOWLER, Columbia '28, has resigned from the Western State Teachers College Library, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and has a temporary appointment in the Beverly Hills, Cal., Public Library.

CATHERINE GOSHKIN, Columbia '30, who has been at the Herzl Junior High School Library in Chicago, has been made librarian of the Schurz High School Library in the same city.

EDITH T. GROSS, Columbia '29, has accepted a position in the Jackson Memorial Hospital Library at Miami, Florida.

ANNASUE HUGHES, Wisconsin '28, has accepted the position as librarian of the Delano Branch, Kern County Free Library, Bakersfield, California.

L. STANLEY JAST retires from post as chief librarian of the Manchester, England, Public Library at the end of this year. It is understood that Mr. Jast himself decided to retire at this date, so as to give his successor a free hand with the great central library building which is about to be built.

EDITH A. LATHROP, assistant specialist in school libraries, U. S. Office of Education, has received a grant-in-aid from the Carnegie Corporation to support a study of rural school libraries and country library service to schools.

WILLARD P. LEWIS, Albany '13, leaves Wesleyan University Library on November 1 to become librarian of the Pennsylvania State College. Mr. Lewis had previously served as librarian of Baylor University and the University of New Hampshire.

GERTRUDE MACKINNEY became state librarian of Pennsylvania in July, succeeding Frederic A. Godcharles. For six years Miss MacKinney was librarian of Grove City College and she also was engaged as librarian in Chautauqua and Jamestown, N. Y.

ROBERT A. MILLER, Columbia '30, who has been in the preparation division of the New York Public Library, has been appointed Supervisor of Departmental Libraries in the library of the State University of Iowa, Iowa City.

HENRY O. SEVERANCE, librarian of the University of Missouri, is now working on a thorough revision of the Guide to Periodicals which it is hoped will be published by November 1.

NATHAN VAN PATTEN has been invited to act as lecturer in Medical Bibliography at the Medical School of the University of California during the academic year 1931-32 in addition to his work at Stanford University as lecturer in Chemical Bibliography.

Opportunities For Librarians

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, Salem, Oregon, wishes to correspond with persons who are qualified for the position of college librarian. Our present librarian, because of age and a recent accident, will soon be obliged to do less work, but he will remain in charge until his successor is secured. The qualifications precedent are that the librarian shall have a college degree, a degree from a recognized library school, church membership in some evangelical church and not use tobacco. We have a preference for a man, but that is not fixed. Our library contains about 25,000 volumes and some 8,000 other volumes for the law school. We have no separate library building, so the librarian will have to be content for a time with less than first class facilities. The salary will be approximately $2,000. Apply to Carl G. Boney.

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Library school graduate seeks position. T21

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Wanted

WANTED—Complete file of *Harper's Magazine* which includes back covers and advertising pages. Reply to: F. A. Bell, Information and Records Division, J. Walter Thompson Company, 420 Lexington Ave., N. Y.

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Free For Carriage Charges

THE LONG BEACH, Cal., Public Library offers the following magazines to any library willing to pay carriage charges:

Current History—bound Vols. 40-41, January, 1906-December, 1906. Vols. 43-48, July 1907-June, 1910. (Vols. 40, 43, 47, 48 are incorrectly labeled on cover.)

Engineering News-Record (unbound) Vols. 94-96, January, 1925-June, 1926. Vols. 101-103, July, 1928-December, 1929. (Vol. 96 lacks numbers 2-6 inclusive.)

Independent—bound Vols. 52-73, January, 1900-December, 1912.

Nation—bound Vol. 44, January-June, 1887.

Outing—bound Vol. 59, October, 1911-March, 1912.

Review of Reviews—bound Vols. 7-13, February, 1893-June, 1896. Vols. 15-41, January, 1897-June, 1910. (Vols. 15, 16, 19 incorrectly labeled on covers.)

Science—bound Vol. 16, July-December, 1902.

The Calendar of Events

October 1-2—Connecticut Library Association, annual meeting at Greenwich, Conn.

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October 3—Utah Library Association, annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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October 7-9—Michigan Library Association, annual meeting at Battle Creek, Mich.

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October 1-9—Iowa Library Association, annual meeting at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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October 8-10—Colorado and Wyoming Library Associations, joint annual meetings at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

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October 14-15—Nebraska Library Association, annual meeting at Omaha, Nebraska.

•

October 14-16—Wisconsin Library Association, annual meeting at Hotel Pfister, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

•

October 16—New Jersey Library Association, annual meeting in Trenton, New Jersey.

•

October 15-16—Kentucky Library Association, annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

•

October 20-23—Pennsylvania Library Association, annual meeting, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.

•

October 20-22—Kansas Library Association, annual meeting at Wichita, Kansas.

•

October 21-23—Illinois Library Association, annual meeting at the Père Marquette in Peoria, Ill.

•

October 22-24—Mississippi Library Association, annual meeting at Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

•

October 28-30—Indiana Library Association, annual meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Joint meeting with Indiana Trustees Association.

•

October 28-31—Texas Library Association, biennial meeting at San Antonio, Texas.

•

October 29-31—Missouri Library Association, annual meeting at Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

•

November 12-13—North Carolina Association, biennial meeting at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

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December 28-31—Mid-Winter A.L.A. meeting, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

•

April 25-30, 1932—American Library Association annual meeting at Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La.

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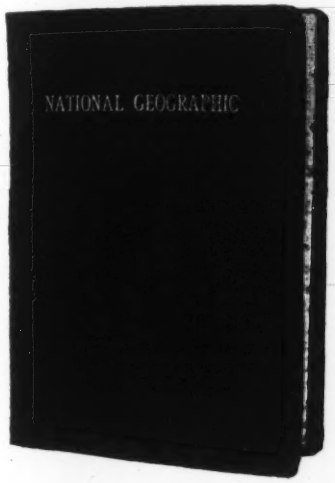

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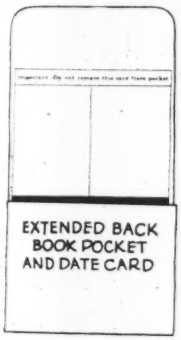

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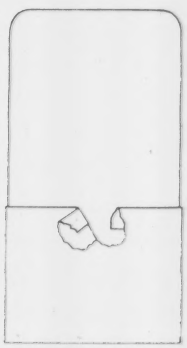

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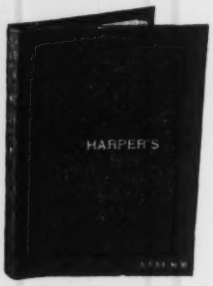

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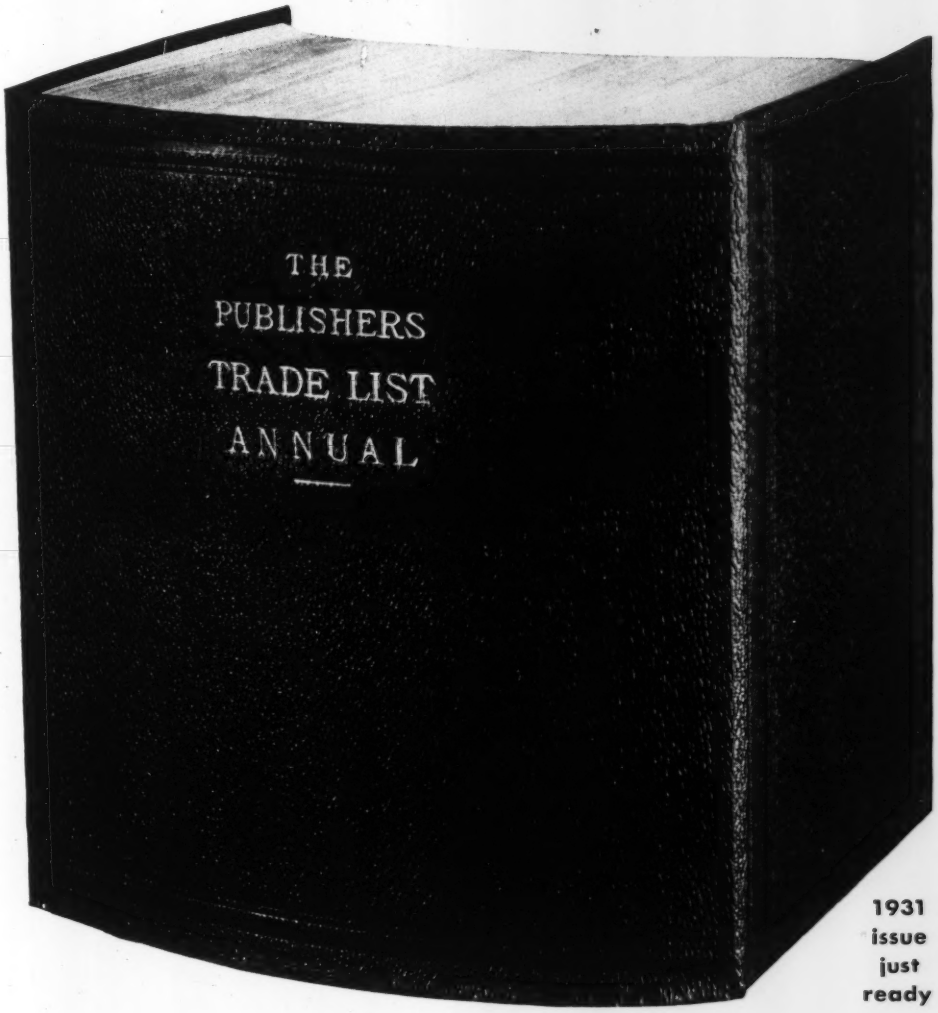

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